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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Track Progress Said To Depend on Rabin

MM1511165094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
15 Nov 94 p 6

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Positive Results of al-Asad-Clinton Summit Depend on What Rabin Is Going To Convey To Washington"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—It seems that the "positive" results of the summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton in Damascus vis-a-vis the peace negotiations depend on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington today and the "quality" of the replies U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is going to bring with him during his tour of the region. Israeli officials are not necessarily going to accept what was agreed between Damascus and Washington—which leaves the U.S. Administration with the burden of "convincing" Rabin of what "it understood" in the Syrian capital, without putting "pressure" on either party so as not to overstep the role of broker. However, the Israeli officials' resumption of talk about "painful withdrawals" from the Syrian Golan Heights, which were occupied in 1967, moves closer to Damascus' demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the heights but without fully meeting this demand.

A Syrian official acknowledges that "progress" has occurred in the negotiations regarding Syria's willingness to establish "normal relations" [alaqat 'adiyah] with Israel after a full withdrawal in order to achieve peace for the Syrian and Israeli "peoples." The official points out to AL-HAYAH that the matter depends also on the "replies" Christopher will bring from Rabin and "their response to the Syrian initiatives," in order to resume the bilateral negotiations, which were suspended after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron last February. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Sends 'Anniversary' Message to 'Arafat

NC1611104394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isma't 'Abd-al-Majid has said that the Arab League, which has regarded the Palestinian issue as its primary cause for over 50 years, has affirmed the need for all institutions of joint Arab action and international institutions to contribute to building and developing the Palestinian state in light of the Palestinian people's requirements.

This came in the Arab League secretary general's message to Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine, on the celebration—for the first time on Palestinian soil—of the Palestinian state's anniversary.

Islamic Affairs

Brotherhood, Communists' Right To Operate Debated

NC1511080194

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic in its 9 November issue publishes in its "Political Week" section on page 6 three brief statements, of 300, 250, and 200 words respectively, by Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the Muslim Brotherhood's official spokesman; Ibrahim al-Badrawi, a representative of the "banned" Egyptian Communist Party; and Dr. Nabih al-'Alqami, a People's Assembly member and assistant secretary at the ruling National Democratic Party's [NPD] General Secretariat. In their remarks the three men discuss the pros and cons of allowing all the political forces to operate freely in the country. The NDP official comments on remarks made by Al-Hudaybi and al-Badrawi on each other's parties.

The Brotherhood spokesman says he believes that all citizens should have the right to form political groups and promote their platforms "by peaceful means, without provoking others, and without calling for the overthrow of society's basic foundations."

He says the authorities should not interfere in the formation of political parties, either by licensing or denying a license to various groups, and urges that a competent and independent court take charge of this procedure.

He concludes with these remarks: "In line with what I have said, the banned Communist Party and any other has the right to publicize itself on condition that it revise its principles, platform, and activities. We do not object to their promoting their party if they abandon their counter-religious call and stop espousing ideas and ideologies embodying the dictatorship of the proletariat."

The Communist Party's al-Badrawi says that political Islamic forces and organizations seek one goal, that of establishing a religious state, and "intentionally mix religion with politics to achieve their economic and political interests." He says he is aware of what the Muslim Brotherhood's methods have been since its establishment in the twenties and calls it the "mother group from under the cloak of which emerged all the streams of political terrorism."

Al-Badrawi says the Muslim Brothers have been behind the assassination of government figures and bombings of public places since the forties "in addition to their continuous terrorist acts against Christians, tourists, officials, the police, the public, and intellectuals as evident in the assassination attempt against the international litterateur Najib Mahfuz. Hence they espouse the coup d'etat method and use violence and terrorism to achieve their goals."

He opposes permitting them to operate legally, declaring: "In light of the foregoing, on no account should this group be allowed to operate publicly and formally."

In his turn NDP official al-'Alqami opposes allowing either the Communist Party or the Muslim Brotherhood to operate officially. He says it is not tenable for the Egyptian communists to operate formally, because Communism has collapsed worldwide. In the case of the Muslim Brotherhood, he says it should not operate, because it attempts to politicize religion and encourages "acts of violence and terrorism."

ICO Supports 'Just' Settlement of Kashmir Problem

LD1411215594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT
14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 14 Nov—Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), has reaffirmed the commitment of the ICO to securing a just and peaceful settlement to the problem of Kashmir. In a statement issued today on behalf of the organization, the secretary general stressed that Kashmir constituted a hotbed that could lead to the outbreak of general conflict in a sensitive region of the world. He urged international bodies, particularly the Security Council, to realize quickly the situation has started to deteriorate rapidly in Kashmir. He said: The fact that due to procedural considerations no draft resolution has been introduced at this stage, does not retract in any way from the importance of the problem of Kashmir, which has been on the agenda of the United Nations and continues to pose a threat to peace and security in southern Asia.

Mr. Algabid pointed out that the ICO contact group would intensify its efforts and expand its contacts at the United Nations in order to support the right of the people of Kashmir to self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions and to secure basic human rights. He expressed the hope that there would be a positive response by the government of India to these concerns by stopping repressive measures in Kashmir and facilitating serious and effective negotiations between India and Pakistan to find a peaceful and just settlement to the issue of Jammu Kashmir.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on 'Arafat's Independence Day Speech

Cites 'Israeli Enemy' in Speech

TA1611095594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600
GMT 16 Nov 94

[Report by Gay Benjowich]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In his festive speech on the occasion of Palestinian Independence Day yesterday, 'Arafat referred to the Palestinian National Council's [PNC] resolution made in Algiers in

June 1974, which launched the endeavor for the establishment of a Palestinian national authority. [passage omitted]

In 1974, 'Arafat says, the PNC decided to establish a Palestinian national authority on the first strip of land from which the Israeli enemy would withdraw, the first strip of liberated land. Today, he says, we are establishing the Palestinian National Authority.

'Arafat's speech was a rebuttal of the opposition's charges: I am not giving you scraps tossed by the Israelis; rather, I am pursuing the course of establishing a Palestinian state.

More on 'Arafat's Remarks

JN1611110494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the homeland's cities, villages, and camps witnessed mammoth celebrations on the sixth anniversary of the declaration of Palestinian independence. On 15 November 1988, the independence of the State of Palestine was announced from the land of the one million martyrs [Algeria]. Let us continue to make sacrifices and remain faithful to history and ('glory), which we will inherit generation after generation and century after century.

The masses of the Palestinian people have expressed their belonging, happiness, and loyalty to their legitimate leadership, at the head of which is His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the National Authority, by organizing rallies and celebrations throughout the homeland.

The celebrations reached a peak at the al-Yarmuk playground in Gaza in the presence of the brother leader Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat]. Similar celebrations were also held in Bi'r Zayt, where the masses and cadres met to make this day a beautiful one befitting our long and great history, in which the masses gladly participate.

The National Authority had earlier decided that this day will be an official holiday devoted to people's celebrations. The Voice of Palestine wishes to extend its best greetings and congratulations to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the National Authority, and to all the Palestinian people in all their positions. We beseech God that we will celebrate this day next year after the Palestinian land has been united and the aspirations for an independent Palestinian state, whose capital in Jerusalem, have come true. More details on Gaza celebrations in the following report:

[Begin Muhammad Sabbah recording] Gaza city wore a new dress today in the colors of the Palestinian flag. Palestinian flags were raised throughout the city in the streets and on roofs to mark the sixth anniversary of the declaration of the Palestinian state. On this occasion,

state departments observed a public holiday with celebrations starting in the early morning. Students went to schools and universities. After the national anthem, all students marched in a mammoth demonstration to the city's al-Yarmuk playground to attend the central ceremony there. The court was packed with thousands of Palestinians from all cities and villages in the Gaza Strip.

His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and a number of ministers and officials in the Palestinian Authority took part in the ceremony. The ceremony started with sports and karate demonstrations, folk dancing, and scouting displays. Then, President Yasir 'Arafat gave a speech on the first independence day. [end recording]

His Excellency President 'Arafat gave a speech in the ceremony in which he said: My brethren, beloved, my people, all of my people on the land of liberated, free, and glorious Palestine. On the first liberated land, we all today celebrate the sixth anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Palestinian state. What was mere words, poetry, and dreams has become a reality on the land of the homeland, on the land of Palestine.

In 1988, the Palestine National Council adopted a resolution to set up the national authority on any land evacuated by the occupation troops. No one can make the Palestinian people bow nor can anyone undermine their will or coerce them. There can be no peace without the Palestinian peace and there can be no stability without the stability of the Palestinian people.

President 'Arafat added: We have fought with courage and when we made peace we made it with courage. The path is long and arduous and requires brave, determined sacrifices; it requires the will of revolutionaries, unity, martyrs, and their prince Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and all the wounded. An oath is an oath and a pledge is a pledge that the march will continue until a boy or girl raise the flag over Jerusalem, its minarets, and its walls. We believe this day is near and they believe it is far. We will continue the march until [we reach] Jerusalem, until [we reach] Jerusalem.

Paper: 'Arafat Interested in Talks With Hamas

TA1011130894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is trying to set up a public meeting with the representatives of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, according to the first issue of AL-HAYAH [LIFE], a new newspaper published today in the Gaza Strip.

In the interview to the newspaper, 'Arafat says that the aim of the meeting is to strengthen ties between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Islamic movement.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that PA representatives and activists from Hamas and the

Islamic Jihad held several discussions in the Gaza Strip last week in order to discuss joint cooperation.

'Arafat's Views of Hamas, Islamic Jihad Examined

TA1511184594 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Nov 94 p 11

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Putting Off Decisions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's criteria, there is a fundamental difference between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. Considering Islamic Jihad a non-Palestinian organization which serves Iranian interests, 'Arafat views Hamas as an authentic Palestinian movement. The difference in his attitudes toward the two organizations was made clear by 'Arafat on more than one occasion. While wanting to incorporate Hamas in the Palestinian Authority in principle, he is ready to fight the Islamic Jihad, the Iranian proxy.

It is, however, yet to be seen whether after completing the vast wave of detentions of Islamic Jihad members, 'Arafat will move up a step and confiscate their arms, which would mean he is ready to engage in a decisive battle against the organization.

Taking a similar step against Hamas is out of the question for 'Arafat. Last week he made a very important step in the opposite direction when he appointed Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, a prominent West Bank Hamas leader, as head of the Shar'iyah courts in the West Bank. 'Arafat did not mind at all that al-Baytawi heads the League of Palestinian Theologians, an organization that issued a religious edict disqualifying the Oslo agreements or any other peace agreement with Israel. 'Arafat would never have offered such a position to an Islamic Jihad man. Shaykh al-Baytawi's willingness to accept the post indicates that Hamas' political stand on the peace process should not impinge on promoting its status, improving its position, and serving its own interests. The pragmatic attitude of this Hamas sector will remain its characteristic further down the road: It will continue opposing the Oslo agreements; if elections are held, it will express its negative position; but in practice, it will urge its members to assume power positions, even as individuals.

We said "sector" because Hamas is not just one bloc. Despite its unified appearance, its diverse facets might soon cast doubt on 'Arafat's distinction between the "Palestinian" Hamas and "Iranian" Islamic Jihad. Today the movement is, apparently, divided into two parts. One part is the original Gaza leadership, with Mahmud al-Zahhar being one of the most familiar spokesmen. This sector of the supporters of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin had nothing to do with the recent Hamas terror attacks. It is not that they are the righteous among the nations, but they did not initiate, nor did they have a vested interest in causing the recent security deterioration.

The other sector is the West Bank leadership of the movement. Traditionally, it has good ties with Jordan, spending many years as its loyal civil servants. Shaykh Ahmad al-Baytawi is a clear representative of this sector. Recently, there has been a rapprochement between Yasin's Gaza group and the West Bank group because both sectors came under threats by the leadership abroad.

The leadership abroad is also split into two main wings: Ibrahim Ghawshah and Muhammad al-Nazzal of the Jordanian office, and the group that moves between Tehran and Damascus with occasional visits to colleagues in the Lebanese Hizballah, represented by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq and Shaykh 'Imad al-'Alami. Abu-Marzuq is the true founder of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam terror group that was established in a way that would keep it from having any contact with the original Hamas leadership, except for Abu-Marzuq. Based on pieces of information, the recent Hamas terror acts—the kidnapping and murder of Nahshon Wachsmann and the Tel Aviv bus bombing—followed orders and were financed from abroad. There is a major difference between the bus bombing and the kidnapping: The latter was directed against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, while the former attacked civilians. The order to blow up the bus could not have originated from the Amman office because Ghawshah and Nazzal personally pledged before the Western superpowers some two years ago that, being a legitimate liberation movement, Hamas would avoid attacking civilians. Hence, against their better judgment, the order was given by Abu-Marzuq and al-'Alami.

Abu-Marzuq is the head of the Hamas political committee, of which al-'Alami, Ghawshah, and Nazzal are also members. This does not prevent Abu-Marzuq from taking steps that contradict explicit promises by his Amman colleagues. This indicates that foreign elements are involved in Hamas activities and, in this respect, it is not different from the PLO that it wishes to overthrow. While Abu-Marzuq, Ghawshah, and Nazzal wanted to show the leadership in the territories "who's the boss," Abu-Marzuq sought to prove to the other two that they cannot make promises to the West on behalf of the entire movement, not regarding attacks on civilians, nor on any other matter.

In terms of the distinction 'Arafat is making between Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the fact that Abu-Marzuq issues instructions in the territories means that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads are no different from the Islamic Jihad, and are equally "Iranian." We are, indeed, yet to see just how serious 'Arafat is in his intentions to take steps against the Islamic Jihad but, based on criteria he has determined for, the connection between fighting Hamas and Abu-Marzuq will compel 'Arafat to act against Hamas as well.

Assuming that Abu-Marzuq was indeed the man who ordered 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam to carry out the Tel Aviv attack, Hamas both in Amman and in the territories

should be concerned by not only the attacks against civilians (which contradict Ghawshah's and Nazzal's pledges), but also by the suicide terrorists. Hamas belongs to the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood. In the pre-intifadah struggles between the brotherhood leadership and the Islamic Jihad group in Gaza, the Brotherhood used to charge their opponents with abandoning the Sunni path and becoming Shiites. They condemned suicide as a despicable Shiite characteristic and disqualified Shaykh al-Qassam as an Islamic Jihad role model. Perhaps it is no accident that pro-Iran Abu-Marzuq chose to name the military arm he set up in the territories after a fighter who died in battle and whom the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza disqualified years before.

The similarity between the Hamas bombing in Tel Aviv and the Islamic Jihad suicide attack in Netzarim is no accident: Both were inspired by Iran. It is to be expected that Hamas leadership in the territories, and perhaps also Abu-Marzuq's friends in Amman, will be concerned by Shiite characteristics penetrating Sunni lines through Islamic Jihad and Hamas military activities. When I wrote this article, on the eve of 13 November 1994, I heard Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Israeli Islamic Movement, speaking on Qol Yisra'el in Arabic and ruling out suicide for any purpose. Furthermore, he said, not only is suicide wrong in Islam, all violence is bad. Even Shiite leaders in Lebanon such as Shaykh Fadlallah have ruled out suicide at the time, and they indeed stopped there.

Hamas, no less than Israel or the PLO, is therefore facing a moment of truth. Shaykh Yasin's men and the veteran West Bank leadership want to take part in the Palestinian administration set up by 'Arafat, believing that they will gain power by collecting real power positions. The leadership abroad fears the rise of the power of the leadership in the territories, particularly if it does this by joining 'Arafat's administration, and is sabotaging this trend by terrorist activity. This path, however, reveals a real rift between the veteran leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan—Ghawshah and Nazzal—and the young generation that is connected with Iran and, through Hamas, introduces Shiite ideas and traditions into the Sunii organization.

'Arafat is trying to put off making a decision as long as he can. He fears that since Iran took both the Islamic Jihad and Hamas terrorist arm under its wings, it could hold 'Arafat himself at gunpoint. But this is not only 'Arafat's problem.

Quray' Comments on Jerusalem Issue, Powers

TA1011180994 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Nov 94 pp 8, 7

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', PA "minister of economy", by Louis Khalaf; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Khalaf] What is your reaction to Jordan's stance on the Islamic shrines?

[Quray'] I think we are about to reach full understanding on this issue, after Crown Prince Hasan announced in Casablanca that everything that relates to Jerusalem is a Palestinian affair. As for the holy sites, they will be handed over to the Palestinian Authority [PA] when the issue of Jerusalem is resolved in the upcoming final status talks.

Despite various concepts by Arab and Islamic parties regarding the Jerusalem issue, I believe that all Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian views converge on one point—namely, that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. The only bone of contention is with Israel. Efforts must be redoubled to liberate Jerusalem from occupation. There are no and there will be no Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian differences over Jerusalem.

[Khalaf] What can you tell us about the economic agreement between Jordan and Palestine?

[Quray'] As you are aware, an economic agreement between Jordan and Palestine was signed in January 1994. This agreement, which enjoyed the approval of the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships, remains the basis of our economic relations. Now we must agree on a plan of action to implement this agreement, especially as the PA's parameters in the economic sphere during the interim stage became clear following the signing of the Paris economic agreement between Israel and the PLO. We are now trying to get the two leaderships to endorse the plan of action with Jordan, which has been discussed by the two sides. The draft of the plan is ready for endorsement.

[Khalaf] Will there be any assumption of powers on 15 November, the anniversary of the Palestinian state's proclamation?

[Quray'] With regard to early empowerment, which has been agreed on and which includes education, culture, health, social affairs, sports and youth affairs, tourism, and taxation, all these spheres are supposed to be transferred to the PA throughout the West Bank before 15 November. Today we raised with the Israeli side the issue of the transfer of powers in all economic spheres and branches, including agriculture, industry, commerce, transportation, banks and companies, licensing, environment, water, and infrastructure.

We hope the Israelis will understand that it is not possible to embark on economic development and construction under two systems: one for Gaza and Jericho and another for the rest of the West Bank.

PA on Israel's Responsibility for Attacks

TA1211201294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Nov 94

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, PA official in charge of the Israel desk, by Shlomi Eldar on 11 November; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayidah] Having assassinated Hani 'Abid within the boundaries of the autonomy, the Israeli Government has in fact usurped the Palestinian Authority's [PA] powers and dealt with the Palestinian opposition on its own.

[Eldar] Could you have dealt with the Palestinian opposition, including the Islamic Jihad?

[Abu-Zayidah] Before the PA is required to prevent such attacks, it should be expected to be able to protect the lives of people such as Hani 'Abid. He was the PA's responsibility. How can we protect the lives of Israeli soldiers if we were unable to protect Hani 'Abid's life?

But that is not the problem. I would like to ask you, to ask every Israeli: What are the soldiers doing here in Netzarim? What are they guarding here? A few dozens settlers?

[Eldar] A few dozens settlers who are supposed to stay here under the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

[Abu-Zayidah] This is precisely the point. Prime Minister Rabin said that several clauses may be reviewed, and I am personally demanding that this be the first clause to be reviewed. This should be the first thing.

[Eldar] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, we have witnessed a series of terrorist attacks perpetrated by Palestinians in recent months. Perhaps we, the Israelis, should ask ourselves whether this whole agreement has any point at all, if opponents of the PA carry out attacks every other day.

[Abu-Zayidah] Terrorist attacks existed before the agreement, and they will exist after it. I am very sorry about it, but you made peace with a majority of the Palestinian people, and you have gained by it, because six months ago, the 9,000 Palestinian soldiers were pitted against you in Lebanon, Jordan, everywhere. Now most of the Palestinian people are at peace with you. We share a common problem, and we are not ignoring it, but you must not hold us fully responsible.

Authority Takes Charge of Social Affairs

JN1411195994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian National Authority today took over control of the social affairs sector in Tulkarm and Janin. The Palestinian flag was raised over the social affairs departments in these cities. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Assesses Authority's 6-Month Rule

NC1511214094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Nov 94
p 17

[Article by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international relations in the Palestinian Authority, PA: "Accomplishments and Difficulties"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] is currently facing the biggest and most difficult struggle in the history of the Palestinian people. This fledgling Authority is burdened with the problems of setting up its infrastructure for the first time on the soil of Gaza and Jericho, in addition to the responsibility for cutting the ties linked to the Israeli occupation and preparing the ground for expanding the national structure into the West Bank very soon. All of these are difficult and compulsory duties because they form the womb of the independent state that is the right and objective of our people.

Although the PNA has succeeded in realizing very important achievements in a very short period of time, it has not yet fulfilled other duties which are surrounded by many difficulties.

What has the PNA managed to accomplish so far?

The major accomplishment is the full withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from 88 percent of the Gaza Strip. Of the remainder, 8 percent is occupied by settlements and 4 percent comprises the areas around them. The Israeli forces have also withdrawn from 63 square km in the Jericho area. This means that 40 percent of the residents of the territories occupied in 1967 have been liberated. The Palestinian police force succeeded in assuming control over these liberated territories over a two-week period in a huge logistical operation. They accomplished for the Palestinian citizens a feeling of freedom and security for the first time in 27 years. Thus, there is no occupation force presence and the shape of the Palestinian people's social life in Gaza and Jericho has been radically changed.

Freedom and security have been established with a minimum police presence, particularly in Gaza, which has a high population density. The Justice Ministry, together with scores of human rights organizations and Red Cross representatives, intervene quickly and ask many questions whenever there is an arrest. This has created great sensitivity to human rights' issues.

Another accomplishment is that people are returning to Gaza, as is evident from the space dedicated to congratulations in the newspapers accompanied by pictures of the returnees (mostly from among those who left in 1948). Some 20,000 Palestinians, constituting the families of 5,000 Palestinian police officers and 2,800 cadres of free-lance workers, have returned to the Gaza Strip. The number is expected to rise soon to 70,000. In addition, 5,000 detainees have been released and negotiations continue over the release of another batch of detainees.

Yet another accomplishment is that a construction boom has become apparent, most of which is taking place with the knowledge of the public sector. There are three housing projects and plans for a hospital to be built with aid from donor countries. Huge efforts are being exerted to renovate Gaza. These efforts started with popular

solidarity to keep Gaza clean and remove the vestiges of the occupation such as barbed wire and roadblocks. However, these efforts will have no tangible impact unless funding is provided for projects to build the infrastructure and production projects.

The PNA's presence has spread to sectors of health and education and from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, where it now controls 90 percent of the administrative employees. New ministries have been set up and preparations are underway to build a national center for data processing. We have come a long way in the process of crystallizing the structure for the Municipalities Ministry. The spread of the PNA into the West Bank reveals that speculation that implementation of the agreement would stop at the borders of Gaza and Jericho was incorrect. In fact, this spread has had a countereffect since the issues of Jerusalem and the refugees are now open to political discussion locally, regionally, and internationally.

The PNA has succeeded in avoiding any armed or even violent collision with the opposition, including the Islamic opposition. The opposition expresses itself freely through its newspapers, seminars, and public meetings. As for the banning of the newspaper AL-NAHAR, which lasted for just a few days, it was done for reasons that have nothing to do with freedom of expression or freedom of the press. A magazine for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been published. In addition, five other licenses have been granted to various opposition factions. It is no secret that Hamas and other opposition factions have entered into an intensive dialogue with the PNA on ways to participate in the political and social institutions. Even the PNA's attempts to curb operations against the Israelis have been carried out without violating the rights of individuals, which has further enhanced the dialogue with the opposition.

In this atmosphere of freedom, cultural and social groups and societies have spread widely and nongovernmental groupings have played an active role in various projects. The PNA has succeeded in setting up a radio station, which operates nine hours per day, and a television channel, which operates five hours per day; and plans are under way to develop them. In addition, cultural and popular action is in high gear. The dialogue is no longer about supporting or rejecting the Declaration of Principles. It now revolves around how to benefit from it and develop it in the future.

As for the great difficulties which the PNA is trying to resolve, they could be summed up as follows:

The main difficulty lies in the way the Israeli Government is handling the implementation of the agreement and its failure to comply with its deadlines. There are many signs of Israeli pressure to take advantage of the fact that we are not an independent state. These signs of pressure occasionally reach the point of conducting overflights or the appearance of troops near the [Gaza]

beach. It is no secret that these practices are a source of extreme concern to us. They demonstrate that the Israelis are applying the old security measures to our new relationship. For instance, how can Israel blame strugglers for their pre-Agreement resistance and deny them entry? And how can it delay the release of prisoners who are freedom fighters, who continue to pay a price?

The delay in implementing the agreement according to the timetable raises various questions and causes popular and political problems. The existence of settlements is a problem that is provocative to the people, something that has led to the launching of several attacks against them in Gaza. Although the settlers living in (Dogen) settlement in northern Gaza have left there, the problem still exists. Another source of daily concern for the PNA is Israel's violations regarding the topics postponed until the final negotiations, including the question of Jerusalem, where Israel is trying to harass the Palestinian institutions and is trying to build more institutions of its own.

Then comes the economic problem, which is in the forefront of the difficulties. Israel has been linking the economy of Gaza and the West Bank to its own economy for 27 years, which led to the destruction of this economy. As a result, there is a substantial number of jobless people. The PNA is trying to absorb some of them in new projects and in the clothing industry and the cultivation of flowers. (Between 40 and 50 percent of the Gaza work force is unemployed) The situation becomes worse when Israel reduces the number of people who travel to Israel to work from 100,000 to 26,000 workers. Sometimes it shuts off this work access completely. This huge number of workers can be absorbed only in giant projects, which do not exist, either because of the donor states' stalling tactics or as a result of the "political blindness" of these states, which provide aid only to flash points that threaten world peace.

The international bureaucracy plays a negative role in this regard. It takes the European Market eight months to process any application submitted to it. But it takes U.S. AID two years to look into applications. It is not true that we have not yet established a control apparatus. All aid is used under the supervision of the financial control apparatus. Therefore, the problem, in my opinion, is first and foremost political.

Despite the setting up of some national institutions, the legal structure has not yet gone into force. This is due to the lack of agreement between Israel and the PNA on holding elections in Gaza and the West Bank and on the powers that should be invested in the elected institutions. Hence, the frameworks of democracy have not yet been completed. These frameworks would allow the opposition to participate in decision making, not just observe and make assessments through the freedom of expression.

Palestinian-Arab relations continue to experience difficulties. However, our relations with Egypt are continuous and positive. Egypt has opened a representative

office in Gaza and Jericho. Relations with Jordan are suffering due to the issues of Jerusalem and economics. Relations with Syria are completely cold. Although Palestinian relations have started to improve with some Gulf states, relations with Libya and Iraq are tense.

The Palestinian people lack Arab political, economic, and cultural aid. They also miss the Arab traditional affection and support. The Palestinian people suffer from the blockade, which can only be lifted by the Arabs, not only on the official level but also on the popular level.

The PNA can provide a Palestinian permit to any Arab citizen wishing to visit Gaza and Jericho. Nobody has come, even though the return of the land was a Palestinian dream. The Palestinians warmly welcomed the only Egyptian commodity, mineral water. However, we still miss other Arab commodities. The Egyptian Land Bank and the Arab Contractors Company have opened offices in Gaza.

Palestinian television airs old Egyptian movies, which are appreciated by the viewers. The Palestinian viewers still miss modern Egyptian films. While international news agencies and newspapers have opened offices, we still miss the Arab news agencies and newspapers.

The Palestinian people appeal for the lifting of the blockade and the promotion of solidarity. Our cause still needs a long time to move from Gaza and Jericho to the West Bank and to reach a final solution. Many political battles still require Arab popular support and efforts. Thousands of the Arabs who have been residing in Israel since 1948 are daily visiting Gaza. They meet with President 'Arafat and other leaders to confirm their identity. What remains, however, is the support of the Arab citizen.

Fatah Aide Sees 'Nothing' Achieved by Authority
MM1511164494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis "yesterday"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Khashanah] After the reservations voiced about and the opposition to the Oslo-Washington agreement, do you now feel that the Palestinian Authority has achieved things no one had expected it to achieve?

[Zaki] Nothing has been achieved as regards the essence. The party that wanted peace was the Israeli enemy. The process was conducted the way he wanted until the declaration of principles was signed. But we note that its adverse effect on the Palestinian side are represented in disarming those who are fighting the occupation, the absence of national unity, and the daily submission to the Israeli conditions in return for Palestinian adherence to the clauses of the agreement, when no change has

occurred in the Israelis' policy or behavior, and nothing new has occurred as regards the talk about peace. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] But something has changed since the Palestinian Authority assumed its duties?

[Zaki] It depends on how one looks at things. Those who believe that Palestine is Israel see anything as progress and a huge achievement. Those who proceed from despair believe that the current situation is good. But those who proceed from the fact that Palestine is for the Palestinians, and that Israel is the aggressor and that there is a brutal occupation, do not see any tangible change, because education is the only portfolio the Palestinians have been given a chance to run. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] The Jordanian-Israeli agreement has caused a shock in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Despite the "easing" of the recent dispute, the future of bilateral relations is still unclear, especially regarding Jerusalem and the fate of the West Bank.

[Zaki] Without doubt the enemy has exploited the Arab tracks. And without doubt Israel's strength stems from the Arabs' weakness. It is exploiting the Arabs' distrust of one another to divide and weaken them and to encourage them to try to compete with one another over formalities at the expense of the essence. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] Does Fatah not fear that Hamas might be a difficult contestant in the event of elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

[Zaki] Elections are a demand that consolidates the democratic aspect in our new life, but there is a problem with Israel regarding their implementation, because it depends on the withdrawal of its Army from the West Bank cities, and to the Israelis, the withdrawal is a security issue. They are daily raising more than one question and excuse for the sake of postponement and procrastination. And they are setting conditions to leapfrog the essence of the required elections, especially as the dispute still exists over the council's powers, size, duties, and relationship with the PLO, that is our people's unity inside and outside [the occupied territories].

If these difficulties are surmounted, there is a law to which we can refer to establish political pluralism in accordance with the requirements of the homeland's and people's higher interests. [passage omitted]

Daily Says Fatah Leaflet Condemns Druze Soldiers

TA1011175094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud MK [Knesset Member] As'ad As'ad yesterday produced a leaflet which he said had been issued by the Fatah in Nabulus, calling for attacks on Druze soldiers serving in the city.

According to the leaflet, the Druze soldiers are described as "dogs trying to serve their Zionist master. The heroes of the stones will teach the Druze mercenaries a resounding lesson."

"(Israel's) actions and terror practices repeatedly prove that the peace process is barren, especially the practices of the Druze soldiers who want to convince their Israeli master that they are loyal to Zionism," the leaflet said.

As'ad called on the government to protect the Druze soldiers and accused 'Arafat of "playing a double game, by extorting political concessions from the prime minister in the name of so-called peace and at the same time sending his men in the framework of the Fatah to attack Druze soldiers."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 10 November reports that "the spokesman of the Palestinian Authority denies any connection between Fatah and the leaflet distributed in Nabulus last night regarding Druze soldiers serving in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that a manifesto distributed by the spokesman says the aim of the leaflet is to drive a wedge between the Druze and the Palestinian people. It also says that the leaflet is forged. The manifesto praises the contribution of the Druze to the Palestinian cause."]

Official Denies Reports on Leaflet

JN1111081094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian official spokesman has described as completely false reports that a Fatah statement was issued in Nabulus on relations with the brother Druze community. The spokesman described such a statement as fabricated by certain intelligence organs that are interested in harming the historical and brotherly ties with our Druze brothers.

The spokesman emphasized that the Fatah Movement has not issued any statements, in Nabulus or elsewhere, that harm these strong relations that we are always endeavoring to strengthen. The aim of this alleged and fabricated statement is to cause a rift among the brothers, the spokesman said.

The spokesman praised the role of the Druze brothers in all stages of the Palestinian cause both inside and outside Palestine.

PLO Will Go To Syria To Discuss 'Developments'

MM101113594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Delegation Led by Qaddumi to Visit Damascus Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian sources in Tunis have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a high-ranking Palestinian delegation will visit Damascus soon for talks with Syrian officials on the latest developments relating to the peace process.

The sources say that the Palestinian side had expressed a desire to visit the Syrian capital but had not so far received a Syrian reply as to what developments would be discussed.

The Palestinian delegation is expected to be led by Faruq Qaddumi Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO's Political Department, and to include a number of Fatah Central Committee members including 'Abbas Zaki and Muhammad Jihad (both opposed to the Oslo agreement concluded between the PLO and Israel).

The Palestinian delegation hopes to discuss the effects of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the prospects for a comprehensive solution, coordinate positions for the coming period, and get acquainted with Syrian ideas on how Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel could be enhanced.

This is an important visit for the Palestinians because there has been no consultation with the Syrian leadership since the discontinuation of the Arab coordination meetings of foreign ministers of the cordon states concerned with the negotiations.

Committee Session Cancelled Due to Lack of Quorum

JN1511211294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Nov 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in Gaza; from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Gaza, a PLO Executive Committee meeting set for this evening has been cancelled at the last minute after the ninth member of the Committee, Mahmaud Isma'il, the Arab Liberation Front's representative, failed to turn up, despite his presence in Gaza. Eight PLO Executive Committee members then held an unofficial meeting due to an unexpected lack of quorum. It is now unlikely the meeting will be convened tomorrow if there is still a lack of quorum, according to Palestinian sources.

Two Executive Committee members arrived in Gaza from abroad today to take part in the session with seven members who have been residing in Gaza since the return of the Palestinian authority.

As is known Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO's Political Department chief, and Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, had announced they were opposed to convening the meeting as had opposition factions and the People's Party.

Eight Members Attend Unofficial Meeting

TA1611054194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The PLO Executive Committee met for the first time in Gaza last night in Yasir 'Arafat's office. The meeting was said to be unofficial because only eight of the 18 members attended. Palestinian officials said the discussions centered on the implementation of the peace deal with Israel.

Palestinian sources say the next round of talks between Israel and the PLO due to start next week in Cairo has been postponed until the end of the month. The talks, which will focus on implementing the Oslo agreement in the West Bank, were delayed reportedly after a request of Prime Minister Rabin because of his trip to the United States.

PLO Aide on Reasons for Holding Meeting in Gaza

MM1611111894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee and secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-HAYAH] It was agreed at the Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis recently to hold the [PLO] Executive Committee meeting in al-'Arish and then Tunis. What caused President Yasir 'Arafat to call for the meeting to be held in Gaza?

[Ghawshah] I do not know what happened in the Fatah Central Committee meeting. All I know is that when the matter was discussed in previous Palestinian meetings, there were views to the effect that the Executive Committee meeting should be held in Tunis or Gaza. It was the view of most of the committee's members in the homeland.

[AL-HAYAH] But does that mean a victory for the view saying that PLO meetings should be held in Gaza from now on?

[Ghawshah] No. Executive Committee meetings can be held anywhere possible. It has over the past years held its meetings in more than one place. There is a possibility of holding a meeting in Gaza, so why not? The main aim is to reactivate the Executive Committee in order to resume its role after several months of absence. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Some people believe that 'Arafat is feeling weak and seeking to broaden the elements of strength, otherwise why is he holding the meeting in Gaza now and not before?

[Ghawshah] The important thing is to reactivate the Executive Committee in order to revitalize the the PLO. This is how we see the matter. The [Palestinian] Authority is not an alternative to the PLO, because the powers of the former are limited and restricted, whereas the capabilities of the latter are unlimited. The Authority's powers are partial, while the PLO's responsibilities are more comprehensive. This is why we say that the meeting is late. We have often urged that it should have been held a few months ago. Regardless of any excuses, being able to hold the Executive Committee's first meeting in Gaza is an important transformation.

[AL-HAYAH] Would you agree to the claim that reactivating the PLO is bound to offer 'Arafat a framework through which to merge Hamas gradually into the fold, that is, if Hamas' opposition to the Authority as a result of the agreement [with Israel] does not prevent its participation in the PLO?

[Ghawshah] It has nothing to do with talking to Hamas or finding a way to merge it into the PLO. It is to do with reactivating the role of the PLO and the factions rallying under its banner, whose relations have been blemished with some defects. Hamas recognizes the PLO but does not participate in it. It has over past years dealt with it through broadly based Palestinian leadership meetings. [passage omitted]

Official Says Suicide Operations Obstruct Peace

NC1511162294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 15 Nov (MENA)—Major General Nasr Yusuf, Palestinian Public Security Director, has stated that the campaign to detain Islamic Jihad members took place after demonstrations that followed a ceremony to commemorate journalist Hani 'Abid, who was assassinated earlier this month.

In statements made today, Major General Yusuf did not explain whether or not the 150 detainees would be put on trial or how long they would be detained. He added: We do not have laws governing parties; these arrests are made based on political decisions.

For his part, Palestinian Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn has told MENA that under the Administrative Law these detainees can not be held for more than six months.

Abu-Middayn noted that, although suicide operations may seem to be a patriotic and heroic act, under the current circumstances—and, in particular, following the peace agreement and the Palestinian National Authority's obligations toward the agreements it concluded—such operations could lead to Israel's blocking the implementation of these agreements. He noted that Israel is looking for any excuse to stall the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, the redeployment of its troops in the West Bank, and the elections that were scheduled for July 1994. Abu-Middayn added that such operations

also obstruct reconstruction work and investment in Gaza at a time when dozens of requests are being received from Palestinian investors abroad who wish to contribute to the reconstruction projects.

In another development, the Islamic Jihad has postponed the symbolic funeral it planned for Hisham Isma'il Hamad, who carried out the Netzarim operation on Friday, due to a heavy Palestinian police presence on the route scheduled for the funeral. An Islamic Jihad official has stated: We are trying to coordinate with all the forces and factions so as to not reach the point of inter-Palestinian struggle. The official called for an end to the arrests and the release of the detainees.

Autonomy Police Said Acting 'More Decisively'

TA1311193894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior officer told us this evening that in the wake of last Friday's incident the Palestinian Police are acting more decisively against the opponents of the peace agreement. According to this officer, the test lies in what the detentions will lead to and how long it will be before the the detainees are released.

It has also been learned that Israel and the Palestinian Authority today sent formal letters to representatives of the six countries that are slated to be part of the new observers' force which will soon be stationed in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. This was agreed on three weeks ago. There will be 400 civilian observers who will carry arms for self-defense. Israel views them as nothing but headache and insists that they not be stationed near the Israelis who live on the boundaries of the autonomy.

Journalist Arrested; Links to Islamic Jihad Seen

NC1211135294 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 12 (AFP)—Palestinian police Saturday [12 November] arrested a local journalist who occasionally worked for an international news agency during a crackdown on Islamic Jihad after the radical group killed three Israeli soldiers.

'Adil Za'nun, 23, an occasional stringer for Agence France-Presse and a reporter for the Palestinian authority's Voice of Palestine Radio station, was arrested at three o'clock in the morning at his home, a relative said.

"The police simply said they wanted him for five minutes. When we asked why they gave no reason," said Hammudah, Za'nun's brother.

Police also briefly questioned other journalists, especially at an Islamic Jihad rally where armed guerrillas

announced the group's responsibility for the bombing. Za'nun's arrest was the only known case.

As a teenager, Za'nun was a supporter of Islamic Jihad and was sentenced to 18 months in jail by the Israelis.

On his release in 1992, he abandoned the group and since then has not affiliated himself with any movement.

In Friday's blast, a suicide bomber blew himself up near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in Gaza on Friday, killing three Israeli soldiers and wounding a dozen people.

Police rounded up a senior Islamic Jihad leader and scores of other activists in a pre-dawn crackdown Saturday.

The authorities have previously called in reporters following attacks on Israelis or after local disturbances and riots. Two Reuters reporters were recently held for at least nine days in connection with the distribution of statements released by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Rabin-'Arafat Meeting To Be Judged by Results

TA1011171094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Nov 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Awaiting the Practical Results of the Erez Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the assessment of both Palestinian and Israeli sources, there is reason to believe that the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin achieved encouraging results, be it in terms of expanding the powers of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] to encompass the rest of the West Bank or in terms of easing the closure measures imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip approximately two months ago.

On the Palestinian level, the situation has clearly not witnessed any real improvement commensurate with the general perception of the Palestinians on the eve of the signing of the interim agreement between the PLO and Israel. Rather, the situation has been one of ups and downs, subject to daily events and the mood of Israeli public opinion. Thus, the Palestinian track did not receive the interest and concern it deserves as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the center of attention of the Arabs, Muslims, and the international community.

If the Erez meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin represents an important link in the Palestinian-Israeli talks, the verdict on the results of this meeting will be delivered in light of its impact on Palestinian daily life and whether it can ease the Palestinian people's suffering in the fields of economy and health. This suffering stems from Israel's insistence on imposing closures and other forms of collective punishment whenever an act of violence occurs here or there, without there being any justification for these comprehensive punishments.

The Palestinians expect their contacts with the Israeli side to result in the development of an approach whereby Israel will respect their political and civil rights, adhere to recognized international principles and human charters, and ultimately refrain from resorting to closures and other forms of collective punishment against the Palestinians, because such measures totally contradict the spirit of peace, respect for the Palestinian people's rights, and operative international laws.

It is important for Israel to begin to implement the next stage of the Declaration of Principles as soon as possible. The Erez meeting supposedly worked out an effective mechanism for accelerating the expansion of the PNA area and the consequent redeployment of Israeli forces outside heavily populated Palestinian areas. This will allow the upcoming Palestinian elections to be held in a fair and stable climate as a step toward the achievement of legitimate and inalienable Palestinian aspirations.

Israel 'Convinced' To Reconsider Gaza Export Ban

JN1111164594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Nov 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A technical group from the Ministries of Agriculture and Health at the National Authority met with a similar technical Israeli group near the Erez checkpoint at noon today. The Palestinian and Israeli technicians discussed the ban that was placed on the exportation of vegetables from the Gaza Strip to Israel after the reports of cholera in the Gaza Strip were officially confirmed. Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Tibi, director of the Palestinian Preventive Medicine Department, said that during this meeting the Palestinian and Israeli sides were convinced that Israel should reconsider its decision to ban exports from Gaza to Israel.

Commentary Calls For Show of 'Goodwill' From Israel

JN1011185694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1535 GMT 10 Nov 94

[Political commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Erez summit meeting, Israel is required to prove its goodwill. The recent meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister cleared the atmosphere of the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track and set a date for negotiations to implement the agreement reached by the two sides. The two sides will discuss, in particular, the second phase of the Oslo agreement on transferring civilian powers in the West bank to the Palestinian National Authority. They will also discuss the third phase of the Declaration of Principles, on redeploying and withdrawing the Israeli Army

forces from residential areas in the West Bank and paving the way for general elections of the Palestinian legislative council.

The most important result of the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting is that the latter reiterated his commitment to implementing the agreements concluded between the two sides and that he came down from the high horse on which he recently climbed. From this height, he imagined he could exploit several armed attacks against Israelis, and the agreement with Jordan, to blackmail and pressure the Palestinian National Authority in an attempt to avoid the implementation of some provisions of the agreement and even to create incidents on the ground to prevent its implementation.

It was clear to the Palestinian leadership from the beginning that the aim of the Israeli maneuver was to seek an excuse to allow the Israeli Government to amend certain provisions of the agreement or even completely change it. They wanted to change those provisions pertaining to the Israeli Army's withdrawal from residential areas in the West Bank in particular, as well as those on the holding of the legislative elections. This is because the implementation of this phase is extremely important and will reflect heavily on the spread of the Palestinian National Authority over the rest of the Palestinian territories and the formation of the first elected Palestinian legislative authority, which will have great local and international political implications.

The Israeli Government would not have backed down on its intransigent policy were it not for the firm Palestinian national position toward all forms of maneuvers, pressure, and blackmail and were it not for the Palestinian determination to hold balanced negotiations on all the elements of the phased agreement in order to enter into final status negotiations as soon as possible. This is what Rabin approved during the recent summit meeting, whose results have opened the way for positive expectations about the implementation of the phases of the agreement. But such expectations require Israel to prove it is serious and to show a spirit that is in line with the requirements of peace apart from the arrogance, maneuvers, and unjust policies of the occupation.

The spirit of peace cannot prevail as long as the occupation oppresses our people and continues to keep thousands of citizens in jail.

Security Official Rejects Cooperation With Israel

TA1311170194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500
GMT 13 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Rashid Abu-Shibak, deputy chief of the Palestinian General Security Services in the Gaza Strip, by Tamar Landau; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Landau] Is the Palestinian Authority [PA] still rounding up Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip in wake of this weekend's event?

[Abu-Shibak] What we are doing now is part of a course of action we were obliged to undertake in order to improve the situation.

[Landau] Today's papers said that most of the Islamic Jihad leaders fled the Strip. Is that correct?

[Abu-Shibak] Look, the problem is not the few people who escaped. The problem is how to solve the present situation. As for those who escaped, there is nothing we can do about them.

[Landau] Do you plan to cooperate with the Israeli Shin Bet, or even with intelligence services of other countries, in an attempt to capture those who fled?

[Abu-Shibak] I do not think there is any need for cooperation with the Israeli Shin Bet or anything like that.

[Landau] But perhaps such cooperation is necessary to prevent future attacks? Perhaps there should be intelligence cooperation long before these attacks are perpetrated.

[Abu-Shibak] It is up to us to prevent attacks; I do not think it depends on any other element.

[Landau] And how do you plan to do it? Are you conducting some kind of an intelligence operation right now? We would like to hear, if you can tell us, what you are doing to identify potential terrorists.

[Abu-Shibak] We are taking some steps in order to reach a situation that will enable us to uphold the peace agreement in the best way possible.

[Landau] Over the weekend, we saw footage of an Islamic Jihad rally in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza last Friday at noon. I must admit that seeing it so close to us was a bit frightening. Are your people afraid?

[Abu-Shibak] No, absolutely not.

[Landau] Then there is no fear of Islamic Jihad joining forces with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to wipe out 'Arafat's Palestinian regime?

[Abu-Shibak] Look, wiping out 'Arafat's Palestinian regime is not something any organization has been able to do to date, because 'Arafat's regime is based on the Palestinian people. I do not think he fears anything unusual happening.

[Landau] You know, Israeli security elements believe the Palestinians are increasingly less supportive of Yasir 'Arafat and more supportive of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

[Abu-Shibak] I do not think so; quite the contrary is true.

[Landau] Do you believe 'Arafat and the PA enjoy growing support?

[Abu-Shibak] Sure, it is growing.

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[Landau] Can you cite any examples? For instance, any polls you have conducted?

[Abu-Shibak] [Words indistinct] the 30,000 workers who suffered as a result of the closure—these people are most supportive of 'Arafat because he is trying to open the gates for them, while others are preventing it.

[Landau] What about the proposal we heard here that the closure be kept up but the PA should be given funds to put food on the workers' tables?

[Abu-Shibak] I do not think this is the right solution. The closure is a collective punishment meted to people who did nothing to merit it. This is no solution.

[Landau] What is the solution? Full cooperation, open borders, as well as joint war on terror?

[Abu-Shibak] I think the solution lies in giving everyone a chance to work, to make a living. This will reduce the number of terrorist attacks.

[Landau] Thank you very much, Rashid Abu-Shibak.

[Abu-Shibak] You are welcome.

Anti-Israeli Speeches Mark Security Ceremony

TA1611083594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The graduation ceremony for a security-personnel course conducted by the Palestinian security services headed by Jibril al-Rujub took place in Jericho last night. Some of the graduates were wanted men who had murdered collaborators. The ceremony was marked by zealous speeches calling for an armed struggle that should proceed to Jerusalem, Haifa, and Bet She'an. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem was there:

[Ben-Menahem] Dozens of Fatah Hawks graduates of Jibril al-Rujub's preventive security organization fired live rounds and jumped over burning tires at a ceremony held yesterday at a Jericho soccer field.

Among the graduates were more than 10 Fatah fugitives, suspected of having murdered collaborators in the West Bank. These fugitives had fled to Jericho, where they have found a safe haven. Having just been trained as security officers, they will be sent to West Bank cities after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws in accordance with the Oslo agreement.

Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the preventive security apparatus:

[Begin recording] [Al-Rujub] This is a matter of policy. We have a signed agreement, and maintaining security will be one of our tasks when we spread out over the entire West Bank.

There had been fugitives prior to 13 September [when the Declaration of Principles was signed], and some of them....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] And there is no problem with regard to their return to the West Bank?

[Al-Rujub] They belong to Fatah. I think every Fatah member was a fugitive prior to 13 September. Now we have turned over a new leaf. [end recording]

[Ben-Menahem] Using various means, the IDF monitored the event at the soccer field. The liaison office in Vered Yeriho telephoned the Palestinian police headquarters to inquire about the shots, which were heard clearly throughout the area.

The worst part was the speeches. Jamal Safi, the official in charge of the Palestinian security services in Jericho, said in his speech: This is the practical, the true translation of the Palestinian armed struggle and the effort to strengthen our hold inside the Palestinian Authority boundaries and on the land of Palestine. A choir sang songs, some of which paid tribute to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, while others called on the Palestinians to throw bottles and firebombs. The ceremony reached its peak when the course commander, Abu-al-Fahd, read a stanza from a poem attacking the Zionist invaders of the Palestinian land who cling to it with the aid of American money and collaborators. He said: We must continue the struggle in Jerusalem, Haifa, and Ben-She'an.

At the end of the ceremony, Palestinian security service members told us: Some IDF soldiers also call for killing Arabs. Are we not allowed to do the same?

Col. Jibril al-Rujub refused to reply to our questions on the matter.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 16 November reports: "The security forces in Ramallah have apprehended a member of Jibril al-Rujub's West Bank Palestinian security services. He was carrying a Kalashnikov rifle." The report cites the detained man, Nasir Abu-Humayd, as saying in his interrogation that "he had been sent to Ramallah by al-Rujub."

[The report goes on to say: "Our correspondent notes that Abu-Humayd had been given a life sentence for the murder of nine collaborators. He was released under the Cairo agreement four months ago, but he had no permission to leave the boundaries of Jericho."]

Writer Views Jordanian-Palestinian 'Rift'

JN1011115594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10, 11 Nov 94, pp 1, 2

["Second of two articles" by staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni "looking into Palestinian perceptions of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the light of the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. The writer has just returned from a working trip to Gaza and the occupied territories."]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At dawn on July 28, three days after the Washington Declaration and nearly three

months before the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, Palestinian security men confiscated all issues of the Jerusalem based pro-Jordanian AL-NAHAR daily, signalling the escalation of tension between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Jordan over perceived competing for influence in the West Bank.

Ironically, the act did not take place in the West Bank but at the Erez crossing—the entrance to the Gaza Strip which has become by now the seat of the PNA, the Palestinian government. The measure drew condemnations, mostly by Palestinians who viewed it as an alarmingly flagrant violation of freedom of the press and an uncalled for overreaction to the Washington Declaration.

In retrospect, that act was more indicative not just of official perception of Jordan's role but also of the mentality of "siege" that has been evolving in Gaza due to the Israeli-imposed separation of the Strip from the rest of the occupied territories and the world outside.

When this reporter asked a top Palestinian security official in Gaza about AL-NAHAR, the surprise was not that he defended the action but rather in the way he phrased his explanation.

"It was necessary at the time. You journalists did not like it but we felt we had to do it. It was not just a message to Jordan but more so to Israel," the official said, explaining that Israel was then and still is, controlling the movement of people, goods and newspapers from and into the Strip.

During that period, the Israelis were making it a point to tell the Palestinians which publications were allowed into Gaza, and that coincided with the Washington Declaration that acknowledged Jordan's special role in Jerusalem.

According to that account, the banning of AL-NAHAR served many purposes even though it was obvious that the Palestinian security did not take freedom of expression very seriously at that point.

Initially, it was not clear how important "the explanation" was or whether, it was relevant at all to the Jordanian-Palestinian relations. But as this reporter talked to more people in Gaza, including official who supported or opposed the ban on AL-NAHAR, it proved to be more revealing than it first appeared to be.

The fact that Gaza is the seat of the Palestinian government, or ruling body, has not done much to ease the tension between Jordan and the PNA. To the contrary, Yasir 'Arafat and some of his lieutenants actually felt more threatened than ever before by Jordan's influence in the West Bank.

To begin with, not only Gaza is separated from the West Bank and even the autonomous area of Jericho, but the movement of even the PNA officials is so restricted that some, especially those who cannot leave the Strip, feel

that they are less in control of the political movement in the West Bank than when they were in Tunis.

Thus, when the Washington Declaration was signed on July 25 it looked like Jordan was getting a leverage greater than that exercised by the PNA, especially that Israel remained in total control of the West Bank. In the minds of some Palestinian officials and many ordinary Palestinians, this implied that Israel could allow and prefer Jordanian influence while imposing restrictions on the PNA and procrastinating over the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank.

Politically speaking, these interpretations were summed up, in the mind of some Palestinian officials and others to mean the following—obstacles are deliberately put in the PNA's way to ensure its failure and to make the Palestinian people turn to Jordan.

These conclusions, right or wrong, created fears bordering on panic among many PNA officials, and even Palestinians, particularly in Gaza—where the notion of a special historic bond with Jordan does not mean as much as it does in the West Bank in the first place.

Combined with the failure to receive the promised international funds, the acceleration of peace talks between Israel and Jordan suddenly became very threatening to Yasir 'Arafat.

Critics of the terms of the Oslo and Cairo agreements between Israel and the PLO cite the ensuing conflict between Jordan and the PNA as a direct result of two flawed agreements that ignored coordination. But that did not mean that even opponents of the Oslo-Cairo agreements did not oppose any Jordanian step that is viewed to undercut Palestinian sovereignty—as the general strike called for by Fatah and the Palestinian opposition groups on the day of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty showed.

The issue of Jerusalem thus became the catalyst and symbol of what had become a Jordanian-Palestinian rift. Many PNA officials realised after the Washington Declaration that failure to reach agreements with Jordan and putting off the status of East Jerusalem were a grave mistake.

Their reference to Jerusalem and Jordan's custodianship of the Islamic holy shrine there was translated into two important new perceived realities in Gaza: First, that leaving East Jerusalem out gave Jordan a door or a window to reassert its role and to Israel the right to make its "annexation" of the city implicitly part of its agreements of other Arab countries.

The obvious counter argument was that without a reassertion of Jordan's role, the administration authority could have only give Israel a good reason and pretext to take over the Muslim Shrines.

Some Palestinian leaders in the West Bank, especially those critical of Mr. 'Arafat believe that the controversy

over East Jerusalem was deliberately exaggerated to deflect attention from the PNA's failure to run Palestinian affairs. Others who resent the Washington Declaration also share this assessment of Mr. 'Arafat's reaction but do not underestimate the implication of practically lessening the Palestinian role in East Jerusalem in the interim period when the issue was not supposed to be raised.

To most Palestinians in the West Bank, the issue is not the religious custody but the main question for them is whether the Arab and the PNA in particular will be able to retain the Arab identity of Jerusalem. This is the main concern that seems to dominate people's minds, especially when East Jerusalem remains the nerve of Palestinian life in the West Bank, and to a lesser but still significant extent in the Gaza Strip.

Consequently, most Palestinian did not seem to be drawn into the ensuing conflict over the religious custody of the holy shrines, important as they indeed are. The most repeated questions, however, are how far Jordan is willing to go in playing a role in the political battle over Palestinian sovereignty, or at least Arab sovereignty in general over Jerusalem, and how serious and capable the PNA is in ensuring that Jerusalem will retain its identity?

In other words, what people seem to be most concerned about in the Jordanian-Palestinian rift is how tense, and deteriorating, relationship between the two will affect the prospects of ending Israeli occupation. In the final analysis, as the disillusionment in the peace process sinks in, Palestinians are not wondering as much as who would rule the West Bank as much as they are over whether the occupation will ever end.

Daily Urges 'Shift' in U.S. Mideast Policy

TA1411195294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Nov 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The U.S. Role and the Congressional Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab and foreign media commentaries have explored the impact of the U.S. congressional elections, in which for the first time in 40 years the Republicans—who are opposed to President Bill Clinton's policies—gained control of the Senate and House of Representatives, of the Middle East peace process and the U.S. role in it. Now Clinton has lost the ability to peddle the U.S. Administration's position relating to the peace process in the region and to other issues without the consent of his Republican Party opponents. Naturally, those positions include U.S. aid to the region's countries, the promised assistance for peace plans, and the deployment of U.S. forces on the Golan Heights as part of a Syrian-Israeli agreement.

Evidently, among other things, Republican control of the U.S. Congress means that Clinton's programs as well as his domestic and foreign policies will face a great many

obstacles in the coming stage. However, the question on the Arab and Palestinian levels does not concern the results of the U.S. elections—considering that they are a U.S. internal affair—as much as their impact on all the Arab issues in the current peace process and on the presumed U.S. role in the peace talks.

Perhaps more than others in the international arena, the Arab and Palestinian side is aware of the disastrous results of U.S. policy principles, whether under Republicans or Democrats, in terms of total bias in favor of Israel and disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, above all their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state.

Moreover, the Arab and Palestinian side is aware of the reality of double standards which the United States practices in its stance toward international legitimacy and its resolutions not only in the Middle East but in many parts of the world. It is those double standards which until now have prevented the international community from imposing the implementation of international resolutions relating to the Palestinian problem and the occupied Arab territories.

From this premise, it is wrong to imagine that U.S. policy principles—which at least as far as our issues are concerned are basically in harmony with U.S. interests that converge with those of Israel—will change if one or the other of the two political parties gain control of Congress or the White House.

These facts, however, do not mean that the Arab and Palestinian side should not insist that the United States adopt a more balanced and respectful policy toward international legitimacy, especially regarding the peace process in this region and after the United States assumed the role of sponsor of the peace talks and of "the honest broker" in them.

Thus, the peace process in the region is not hostage to the ascendancy of this or that party to positions of decision and power in Washington, rather it remains hostage to the absence of serious momentum toward respect for international legitimacy and its resolutions, as well as hostage to the double standards in dealing with this legitimacy. A comprehensive and just peace in this region still requires a fundamental shift in U.S. policies and their pro-Israel bias. Without such a shift, the peace process will continue to face the same impasse that it has been experiencing for a long time.

South African Delegation Meets al-Husayni

TA111/200894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Nov 94

[Report by Naftali Ben-Simon; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jerusalem Police did not prevent a diplomatic delegation from the South African Foreign Ministry from visiting Orient House in East

Jerusalem today and holding a political meeting with Faysal al-Husayni. The status of Jerusalem and President Nelson Mandela's visit to Israel scheduled for early next year were discussed at the meeting. Naftali Ben-Simon reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Simon] While the Israeli side is still fuming over the political meetings held at Orient House, Faysal al-Husayni continues to receive diplomatic representatives. This time he is hosting the official in charge of the Middle East desk at the South African Foreign Ministry and Johan Lotter, South African ambassador to Israel.

The South African visitors sought to convey a message from President Nelson Mandela—probably in anticipation of his visit to Israel—and to learn about the most recent developments regarding the status of Jerusalem.

[Lotter] *The position of South Africa on this is no different now with the new government and President Mandela from what it was in the past, when it was under President de Klerk in previous governments in South Africa. Our embassy is located in Tel Aviv, which tells you what our position is and has been for many years.*

[Al-Husayni] *I believe it is an important visit, and we would like the help and the support of South Africa for the peace process. We hope that more relations can be [word indistinct] and we'll see the moment that we have full peace with Israel, and we will have a good role also, an important role for South Africa in this area.*

[Ben-Simon] *Mr. Ambassador, did you have any problem to get here into the Orient House?*

[Lotter] *Absolutely none, absolutely none. I didn't expect any problem either.* [end recording]

Austrian President Visits Bethlehem, Meets Frayj
JN1411195594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Nov 94

[Report by Sa'id 'Ayyad in Bethlehem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock has told Voice of Palestine that Austrian President Thomas Klestil's failure to meet with a Palestinian delegation at Orient House in occupied Jerusalem does not mean any change in Austria's policy toward the Palestinian people and their National Authority [NA].

Mock, who accompanied President Klestil on his visit to Bethlehem this morning, added that Austria will continue to support the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. He pointed out that his country will offer financial assistance of about \$20 million to the National Authority.

The Austrian president met with Tourism and Antiquities Minister Ilyas Frayj at the Bethlehem municipality building this morning in the first meeting between Palestinian and Austrian officials on such a level since the NA assumed power in the Palestinian territories.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation between the two friendly people in all fields.

In his discussions with Minister Frayj, the Austrian president reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. He said he is happy to meet with Palestinian officials during his visit to the region.

Frayj explained in detail to the guest president the Palestinian people's tribulation resulting from the continuation of the Israeli occupation of a large part of the Palestinian territory. He emphasized how dangerous it is for Israeli settlements to remain on these territories.

In a statement to our radio, Frayj said that he asked the Austrian president to ask the Israeli officials to stop leveling accusations against the NA. He said that such accusations obstruct the peace process.

President Klestil earlier visited the Church of the Nativity. It is worth mentioning that the Austrian and Palestinian people have been enjoying special relations over many years. President Yasir 'Arafat has visited Austria more than once.

Algeria

FIS Claims Military Killed Over 1,000 in 9 Days

NC1511175094 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT
15 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Nov 15 (AFP)—The Algerian military killed over 1,000 people, mostly innocent civilians, in Algeria in a nine-day period at the beginning of this month, the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said in a communique sent to the AFP office here Tuesday [15 November].

The communique charged that the Algerian military was responsible for an attack which killed four boy scouts on November 1 during ceremonies commemorating Algeria's war of independence from France.

The military used the images of the attack—and of the child victims—to launch a media blitz against the fundamentalists it blamed.

FIS said however it had not carried out that attack and said government forces were to blame for the murder of two sisters that the government claimed had been killed by Islamic fundamentalists because they refused to enter into illegal "temporary marriages" with Islamic militants.

The communique said that the two sisters were in fact killed because their brothers were Islamic militants and their parents were supporters of the "Islamic project."

"Everyone knows that Sunni Moslems do not allow temporary marriages," the communique said. Sunni Moslems represent the main religion in Algeria.

The communique added that most of the people killed at the start of the month were "innocent civilians savagely massacred" as part of a sweeping military campaign to terrorize the population.

"The bodies are thrown on public roads, showing signs of mutilation and horrible torture," the communique said.

It added that the government had banned various newspapers to prevent them from publishing the truth about the attacks and had distributed weapons to fuel conflicts setting one part of the population against another.

The FIS also charged that the government has received shipments of sophisticated weapons including fuel oxygen bombs that wipe out any living organism within a vicinity of one kilometer (0.6 of a mile.)

It said some of the weapons were furnished by an unidentified European country.

The authorities in Algeria reported that seven Moslem militants were killed Sunday and Monday during two separate raids.

They said five of the militants were killed Monday near the eastern town of Constantine and two others were killed Sunday near the western town of Relizane.

The FIS and other Islamic groups in Algeria have waged a campaign to topple the government since January 1992, after the military intervened to cancel the second round of elections the FIS was poised to win.

The international human rights group Amnesty International said in a report last month that some 20,000-30,000 people have died in Algeria since 1992 in violence blamed on both sides of the conflict.

Seven Officers Said Killed; 'Pessimism' in Army

MM1611104094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Seven Senior Officers Killed Outside Their Homes in Algiers"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—Informed sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that at least seven Algerian officers were killed four days ago outside their homes in the El Cherrakah suburb of the Algerian capital. They were killed after attending the funeral of Colonel Zeytouni who was killed a day earlier in the El Abyar quarter. According to some sources, the officers, whose ranks range from captain to lieutenant colonel, were taken out of their homes and killed. This is seen as one of the hardest blows to the Algerian Army in its confrontation with the armed groups and is expected to undermine the morale of army officers, particularly as the operation came after the extensive security combing operations which resulted in many casualties. The killing of such a number of officers in a residential area where army officers, military personnel, and state officials live, proved that the campaign did not produce the anticipated positive results and has failed to prevent such major operations. According to some other sources, the number of officers killed was 10 but this has not been confirmed.

Yesterday morning, residents of the same El Cherrakah area found seven bodies hanging from a tree out in the open. The sources say that the seven were fundamentalist extremists. Some link their killing to the killing of the officers and see it as an act of reprisal.

It has been reported that there is a wave of displeasure in the ranks of the Algerian Army following the large-scale combing operations because of the large number of victims and because a large number of these victims were civilians and had nothing to do with the extremist organizations. Voices have been heard criticizing Lieutenant General Mohamed Lamari's security plan within the military establishment and expressing pessimism and fear that the plan would lead to a sea of blood and further isolate the Algerian Army. Although the majority of the public does not support the violent organizations, that majority also rejects the daily massacres which result from this confrontation. [passage omitted]

Seven 'Terrorists' Killed Between 12-14 Nov*LD1511191194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1830 GMT 15 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement issued by the security services today said that the security forces had been able to liquidate seven terrorists between 12 and 14 November in Constantine and Ghelizane. The security forces had also recovered a quantity of arms and ammunition and identity cards during these operations. [passage omitted]

Egypt**Musa, PLO's Sha'th Discuss 'Strategic' Issues***NC1511150794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15
Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.

Sha'th stated after the meeting that they had discussed several strategic issues, foremost among them being the Palestinian-Israeli talks, the obstacles Israel is placing before these talks, and its delay in handing over powers to the Palestinians. Sha'th pointed out that Israel's closure of Gaza and the West Bank causes tremendous losses to the Palestinians and puts the peace process to a hard test. He described the closure as a complete siege and a violation of international law and the peace agreement.

Sha'th noted that he had discussed with Minister Musa the question of the Israeli settlements, particularly those in Gaza and the West Bank, which he described as parasitic. These settlements, he added, cause constant problems and lead to the presence of Israeli troops in the heart of Gaza to protect them. He pointed out that this matter must end as soon as possible, for the good of both the Israeli and Palestinian security.

Sha'th pointed out that he had reviewed with Musa the results of the economic summit recently held in Casablanca. Praising Egypt's role during the summit, Sha'th noted that Egypt had played a distinguished and effective role during the meeting, which put to an end the attempts by some states to use the summit against the Arab interests. Sha'th added that Egypt had managed to avoid the problems that could have resulted from this summit and steer it toward the correct path, particularly with respect to the question of Jerusalem and the need for the peace process to go hand in hand with economic growth.

On Palestinian-Egyptian relations, Sha'th said that the Palestinian side officially requested today that the electric grid between Egypt and Palestine be linked and that the Egyptian gas pipes be extended to Gaza. The Palestinian side also requested that the crossing point in both

Rafah and the King Husayn Bridge, the Allenby, be opened to Egyptian goods so that Egyptian products can be present in the Palestinian market, Sha'th added. He noted that he will continue his contacts in the next two days with the Egyptian ministers of finance, economy, transport, and interior to work out the necessary arrangements for opening the Palestinian market to Egyptian products.

Concerning the acts of violence in Gaza and the West Bank, Sha'th stressed that implementing the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement is a sure way to end the cycle of violence. He added that Israel's approval of the presence of international observers will restore confidence in the possibility of implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Minister Urges UN To Halt Serb Attacks on Bosnia*NC1511142894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15
Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has urged the United Nations and the Security Council to end the Serbian aggression against the Muslims in Bosnia and to safeguard the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Musa called on the Council to honor its previous resolutions in this regard.

Commenting on events in Bosnia, the foreign minister said Egypt is following with concern the way the Bosnian crisis has been handled.

Alluding to the situation in Somalia, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Egypt is following up the developments there. He described the situation in this fraternal country as unstable. Musa said the Egyptian troops operating within the UN peacekeeping forces in Somalia will withdraw according to the UN Security Council resolution and arrangements.

Musa said he received a report from the Egyptian ambassador in Somalia about developments there.

The Security Council recently decided to withdraw the UN forces from Somalia by 31 March 1995.

Election Result Said Not To Affect U.S. Policy*NC1611072794*

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 9 November publishes on page 12 its "Through the Keyhole" column by Kamil Zuhayri in which he discusses, in 700 words, the U.S. mid-term election result. The writer says the Republicans highlighted that Clinton did not achieve much during the first half of his term. Although he did achieve some things, Zuhayri maintains that Clinton failed to keep "many of his golden promises." He had an eye on foreign policy, recently scoring successes abroad to counter his failures at home, Zuhayri writes.

Zuhayri concludes his column with the following: "After all that one point remains: How much can the Senate influence foreign policy? Bush, Reagan, and Clinton are not so very different in their stances on Israel. Regardless of changes in U.S. policies brought about by changes of Presidents, the Democrat Clinton will continue to apply the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel that was declared by the Republican Reagan."

Iraqi Minister Leaves After Housing Conference

NC1411064194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—Iraqi Housing Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad left Cairo for home this evening. He participated in the meetings of the Arab housing and construction ministers held at the Arab League General Secretariat today.

Two Policemen Killed, 1 Wounded in Mallawi

NC1511125494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Two policemen were killed and a third was wounded when unidentified persons opened fire on their car in Mallawi this morning.

An Interior Ministry source has stated that at 0900 today, unknown persons opened fire on police car No. 14962, killing policemen 'Abd-al-Rahman Adham Muhammad and 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hakim Sha'ban and wounding policeman Isma'il Jaballah 'Abd-al-Raziq.

The source said police officers from al-Minya and forensic experts went to the scene of the crime for investigation. Police have stepped up their efforts to arrest the perpetrators.

Food Prices Reportedly Soar to 'Astronomical' Levels

NC1111122994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (MENA)—Foodstuff prices in Iraq have soared madly, recording unprecedented, astronomical figures never witnessed in Iraq's history. This is happening only a few days before the UN Security Council holds its periodic meeting to review the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq. The meeting is scheduled for Monday.

A MENA correspondent in Baghdad says that prices of some foodstuffs increased by 100 percent and that some commodities have disappeared from the market. This is greatly burdening low-income Iraqis, for whom shopping is now a dreadful experience. One kilogram of sugar now sells for 500 Iraqi dinars compared to 350 dinars last week, and one kilogram of cooking oil now sells for 600 dinars compared to 300 dinars a few days ago. The price of one kilogram of rice rose from 280 to 450 dinars, of

wheat from 100 to 150 dinars, and of lamb from 550 to 900 dinars. The price of a whole chicken rose from 750 to 1,200 dinars.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Mediate for Greece, Turkey

LD1511134094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1128 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 15 Nov (JANA)—In a statement to JANA, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, the brother leader of the revolution, expressed his concern about the reemergence of military tension between Turkey and Greece.

The brother leader of the revolution urged Andreas Papandreou and Tansu Ciller, prime ministers of Greece and Turkey—as his personal friends—to resort to self control, back down from intransigent stances, and resolve the Aegean Sea problem between the two countries peacefully.

He stressed that the Aegean Sea is part of the Mediterranean and that the Great Jamahiriyyah has the longest Mediterranean coastline—therefore, it is concerned about peace and stability in the region.

In his statement to JANA, the brother leader of the revolution said that the Great Jamahiriyyah was putting itself at the disposal of the two friendly states to contribute toward any amicable solution to the problem.

Turkey Denies Letter Delivered to Israel

LD1011151594 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara 10 Nov JAMAHA-RIYA NEWS AGENCY—Today Turkey officially denied that Tansu Ciller conveyed a letter from the leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, to the Israelis, last week.

During a press conference held in Ankara yesterday, a spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry, Xarhat Othman, denied these reports. He said that such information does not reflect the truth and asserted that Mrs Ciller did not convey any verbal or written letter from al-Qadhdhafi to the Israelis.

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish prime minister, also denied in a press conference held at the end of her visit to Egypt last Monday, that she conveyed a letter from the leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to the Israelis.

JANA's political reporter said that it is very strange that this matter has been raised by the media because the leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, does not have any idea that the Turkish

prime minister would visit occupied Palestine. Otherwise we would delay or cancel her visit to the great Jamahariya.

In addition the negotiations between the Turkish and Libyan delegation never mentioned that the Turkish prime minister would visit occupied Palestine but we are surprised by her visit.

JANA's reporter expressed his regret at the visit of Tansu Ciller to the Israeli enemy as she is regarded as a Muslim leader who can defend the land of the Muslims.

JANA's political reporter said that Libya is sure that the Turkish prime minister would never make such a statement because she knew the stance of the leader of the revolution against the Israeli enemy and about Palestine and its people and also his stance against imperialism.

JANA's political reporter concluded that the sources who stand behind fig leaves will be exposed.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Greek Envoy Discuss Lockerbie

LD1011190894 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother leader of the revolution today received Akis Tsokhatzopoulos, the secretary-general of the Greek Pasok party, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriya.

The Pasok [Panhellenic Socialist Party] secretary-general relayed a message from President Andreas Papandreou in which he stressed his country's keenness to bolster and strengthen friendship and cooperation ties in all fields.

The Greek official also stressed Greece's support and backing for the Great Jamahiriya in reaching a just solution to the so-called Lockerbie dispute.

He reiterated his country's desire to expand the scope of cooperation and to strengthen ties in the interest of the two friendly countries.

British Tycoon: 2 Lockerbie Suspects 'Innocent'

LD1411151194 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, al Harth [Nov] 14, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The newspaper 'SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY' published yesterday in Edinburgh said that the British tycoon Tiny Rowland confirmed that the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie case are innocent and there is no evidence whatsoever against them.

He added that if a fair trial was conducted in the International Court of Justice in The Hague for the two suspects their innocence would be established and this is what we want.

He said that a block booking by the South African government on the ill-fated Pan Am Flight 103 was

cancelled at the last moment after a telephone warning to Pretoria. This proves that western intelligence had prior knowledge of the bombing.

AL-SHAMS Urges 'Steadfastness' Against U.S.

LD1411150694 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Harth [Nov] 14, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The newspaper 'AL-SHAMS' said in its editorial today that the only remaining confrontation in the international political arena is between America and the Great Jamahiriya.

Many people will see that this confrontation is unbalanced but people have to be certain that no force can prevent them from taking the decision to live freely or to martyr.

The paper said that many of our brothers would not understand this and have chosen the shortest route to America. This is the route of Israel. They thought this was the easy, paved road. But they are deluded as [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin will not respect any signature and the Israelis will not abide by any convention or pledge.

The newspaper revealed that as the Great Jamahiriya insists on steadfastness and is ready to suffer any consequence in this respect some Arabs undertake to finish the job started by America through the so-called Security Council and perpetrate false allegations and try through the media and mercenary journalists to distort the steadfast position of the Great al-Fatih revolution and its leader as they hurry to pick up a false news item saying that the Great Jamahiriya contacted the Israeli enemy through the Turkish prime minister. But the Turkish prime minister has repeatedly denied this, sending us a lot of comments.

The newspaper went on to say that even those who lack neutrality and subjectivity acknowledge that Libya is obstructing the conspiracy against the Arab nation led by America, which made Arab countries fall one after the other into the Israeli basket not just for peace but to enable Israel to swallow this old nation. The Jamahiriya will remain resisting and will never make deals despite the promises.

The newspaper concluded its article by saying in this line the Great Jamahiriya always remains more committed and more confident in its righteousness of its national stand.

Reportage on Sudanese First Vice President's Visit

Salih Arrives

LD1211212594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudanese First Vice President Muhammad al-Zubayr Salih and an accompanying delegation arrived in al-Jufrah today. [passage omitted]

Brother Zubayr Muhammad Salih made a statement to the Libyan news agency in which he stressed that his visit to the Great Jamahiriya falls within the framework of constant exchange of points of view and of bolstering existing cooperation between the two brotherly states. The Sudanese official reiterated Sudan's support to Libya in the face of the unjust sanctions imposed on it by Western countries through the so-called Security Council. He said that the imposition of these sanctions was an attempt to discourage the Great Jamahiriya from its leading role in combating schemes and conspiracies aimed at restricting freedom and insulting the dignity of the Arab nation.

Brother Zubayr said that Sudan is witnessing a trend aimed at achieving peace in his region, and in this connection pointed to the fact that southern secessionist elements have started handing over their weapons.

Salih Meets Committee Secretary

LD1311201894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee met brother Muhammad al-Zubayr Salih, first vice-president in brotherly Sudan, in Sirte this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security, and the delegation accompanying brother Muhammad Salih.

The meeting dealt with ways to develop and strengthen integration between the two fraternal countries in different spheres.

Sudan's al-Turabi Arrives, To Meet al-Qadhdhafi

MM1511164894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Turabi in Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Well-informed Arab sources in Damascus told AL-HAYAH yesterday that Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front in Sudan, arrived in Libya yesterday to hold talks with Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi. The sources added that "a high-level Islamic and partisan delegation" is accompanying al-Turabi.

Supreme Court Verdict Ratifies Execution Sentence

LD1511203094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security said an execution was carried out today on a group of criminals—in accordance with judicial sentences that were ratified by the Supreme Court and the Higher Judicial Authorities' Council—for having carried out premeditated murders for trivial and base reasons and in a savage manner indicative of aggressive and criminal behavior. The carrying out of those sentences and the details of the crimes committed will be shown during the upcoming episodes of the program, Security and Society.

[Begin unidentified police officer recording] The second defendant smashed the victim on the head with a big metal pipe until the victim fell to the ground. The defendants tied the victim's hands and inflicted on him many other injuries on his face. Then they tied a woolen cloth around his head, which strangled him. The Supreme Court, after having looked into the appeal submitted by the two defendants, concluded that the sentence has been proven sufficiently, that the investigation and trial proceedings were carried out legally, and that no other judicial sentence has been issued regarding the case from which the two sentenced could benefit. Therefore the Supreme Court has issued its verdict ratifying the sentence to carry out execution by hanging of the two appellants. [end recording]

Gulf Papers Laud U.S. Decision on Bosnia Arms Ban*JN1211190494 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 12 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manama, Nov. 12 (GNA)—Two United Arab Emirates newspapers today welcomed the U.S. decision to stop enforcing of a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnian Moslem forces and lashed out at the European allies which voiced alarm over Washington's new attitude towards Bosnia-Herzegovina.

AL-ITTIHAD newspaper of Abu Dhabi commenting editorially on the subject said in part:

"The Western states' stands towards the tragedy of Bosnia raises doubts and questions on the credibility of what these countries announce in respect of the sticking to the principles of human rights and providing the people with all means of comfort.

"The Bosnian Muslims have witnessed all forms of torture, oppression and maltreatment in the hands of the Serb aggressors. Not only that but also arms embargo was imposed on Bosnia- Herzegovina [words indistinct] people can not defend their properties, people and their national soil. "Yesterday's announcement of the United States to stop enforcing a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina caused alarm and anger in the Western nations because they want to deprive this strategically located Moslem nation from all elements [words indistinct].

"The anger expressed by the western allies over Washington's decision and their turning deaf ears to the sufferings and oppression of the Muslim Bosnians committed by Serb aggressors is the real western stand towards Bosnia that should be known to the international community.

"Perhaps the new American attitude towards Bosnia would persuade the United Nations Security Council to lift its arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable it to defend its people and to recover its usurped rights." [passage omitted]

Bahrain English daily GULF DAILY NEWS said in its editorial comment today that Washington's decision to no longer help enforce the U.N. arms embargo crippling Bosnian Moslems, is tantamount to lifting it.

President Bill Clinton has clearly bowed to pressure from a U.S. congress now controlled by the Republican Party, it said.

The impact of this decision to break ranks with its main partners in the Bosnian peace process will initially be mainly psychological as Moslems fight an autumn offensive against the Bosnian Serb army.

But more than 20,000 international peacekeepers in the country, virtual hostages of the Serbs, could suffer retaliation now the military balance is about to be shifted, possibly in favour of Moslems.

Washington's move is also bound to cause a major split between it and its West European allies who have been working with Moscow to restore peace.

Their efforts could be largely wasted. [passage omitted]

Bahrain**Amir Receives Letters From Major, Demirel***JN1511125494 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 15 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, today received a letter from British Prime Minister John Major dealing with areas of coordination and cooperation between the two countries, in addition to current developments in the region and other issues of mutual concern.

Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has also received a letter from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel dealing with ways to bolster bilateral ties between Bahrain and Turkey in various areas.

WAKH has learned that the letter also deals with the situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the role Turkey plays in realizing peace there, in addition to the Islamic states' efforts to support Azerbaijan and its Muslim people.

Kuwait**British Commander on Continuing Threat From Saddam***LD1511141694 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1319 GMT 15 Nov 94*

[By Charles Miller, Defense Correspondent, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commander of British troops in the Gulf has warned that Iraq will continue to pose a threat to Kuwait as long as Saddam Husayn is in power.

Lieutenant Colonel David Wilson, who heads the 1,000-strong UK force based on 45 Commando Royal Marines, stressed: "Until Saddam Husayn stands down from power, or power is removed from him, there has to be a threat.

"I don't think anyone was surprised by Saddam Husayn's latest action, but what did surprise me was the speed at which it happened," he wrote in an article for a Kuwaiti publication.

The British battle group flew to Kuwait four weeks ago after Iraq amassed up to 80,000 troops as close as 12 miles from the border.

But Iraq announced last week it would recognise Kuwait within borders set by the United Nations.

The British force is set to be withdrawn, probably by Christmas, because of the reduced tension in the region.

Tactical Exercise Held With 'Friendly' Forces

LD1511191794 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwaiti, brotherly, and friendly forces have held a tactical exercise codenamed Desert Viper. The objective of the exercise was combat training on the use of the most advanced weapons with support from brotherly and friendly forces. [passage omitted]

Oman

Qabus Commutes Death Sentences

JN1211155894 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security Court, charged with looking into the case of those who conspired to foment sedition, split the ranks of the Muslim Omani society, and exploit Islam and its tolerant law in order to achieve these lowly goals, has issued rulings ranging from execution to various terms of imprisonment, the least of which is three years. His majesty the sultan, however, may God preserve him, has ordered that the death sentences be commuted to various terms of imprisonment.

It is known that such sentences against those who plot to harm the people, their tolerant Islamic doctrine, and their cultural legacy of cooperation, tolerance, and reconciliation are always reconsidered by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-'Sa'id at the time he deems appropriate.

Saudi Arabia

King Lauds 'Fruitful' Talks With France's Pasqua

LD1411203894 Riyadh SPA in English 1934 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov. 14, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who presided over a weekly session of the Council of Ministers at al-Yamama palace in Riyadh on Monday [14 November] afternoon, described his talks with French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua as "fruitful and constructive."

Briefing the cabinet on his meeting with Pasqua, King Fahd commended the depth of the bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and France.

The Saudi monarch thanked Pasqua for 'the good feelings he expressed towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, according to a statement given to Saudi press agency by Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir after the cabinet session.

Referring to his meeting with Pasqua, King Fahd recalled statements of the French interior minister in which he had spelt out the keen interest of the French Government in forging cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on matters concerning Moslems in France. The Saudi monarch also noted Pasqua's assurance that the Moslems would be allowed to practice their rites under the French law without letting some people exploit religion for political ends to spread instability.

The king said the French interior minister had stated that when Moslems opt to reside in a non-Moslem country, they should abide by regulations and laws of that country.

The Saudi monarch said Pasqua was highly appreciative of the valuable advices, which are extended by ulema (the Islamic scholars) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to illuminate people on the benefits of the Islamic faith and bring to their notice the wrong practices, which are pursued by some pretenders, obviously contravening with the true Islamic teachings.

In this context, King Fahd singled out the advisory given by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin Baz, the grand mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other respectable ulema to warn Moslems on such acts.

"One of numerous favours bestowed on this blessed country by the almighty Allah was to enable it to serve the two holy mosques with a pioneering role ever since the resurgence of Islam. Moreover, we have traced historic events since then, and we have come to realise the reality that this country is fully capable of leading the Islamic march," King Fahd said.

The Saudi monarch noted the noble Islamic teachings which promotes secular and religious welfare and forbids evil deeds that might harm human beings.

King Fahd expressed confidence that the kingdom will continue to progress and develop as long as it adheres to the true Islamic teachings.

After the valuable remarks made by King Fahd, the information minister said the cabinet reviewed a number of domestic items on its agenda and listened to the views expressed by the concerned ministers.

King Fahd called on the ministers and officials to "continue pressing expenditures and confining them to the most important and necessary fields bearing in mind the interests of citizens in various public services."

King Fahd also stressed the point that job opportunities should be made available to the qualified citizens.

The Saudi monarch expressed satisfaction over a statement made by the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazir on the new sweet oil fields discovered in the central region of the kingdom, whose exploration began this month.

The cabinet authorized the minister of finance and national economy to sign the general agreement concluded between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the federal republic of Russia [as received] with the enclosed formula and that the original signed copy of the accord be submitted to the Council of Ministers for completion of regular procedures and that the ministry would negotiate with the Russian side for conclusion of an agreement for encouragement and protection of investment as stipulated by paragraph 4 of the fourth article of the mentioned agreement.

The cabinet also approved some appointments to grade 14th at the Ministry of Education.

Paper Welcomes Iraqi Recognition of Kuwait

MM1511122294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 94 p9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "The Start of Relations With Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Iraq will find that its recognition of Kuwait and its borders was one of the few sound decisions it made in 15 years and, if followed by the rest of the steps [necessary for] ending the state of war with its Gulf neighbors, it could mark the beginning of the Iraq we believe should have emerged years ago, an open not secret Iraq, a civilian not military Iraq, an Iraq that does not look for military solutions against its own people and against its neighbors to escape from its own political problems.

This is not a time for rebuke or accountability but a time to turn all our backs on the past and look to the future because we cannot live shackled by past legacies if we want to seek a better and more secure future for us all. [passage omitted]

It is wrong to portray the Iraqi initiative as a defeat or submission. It should be viewed as a "modest" decision against an atmosphere of political disputes which are not uncommon in a region where there are accumulations of border disputes.

We in the Gulf, and I am sure that this is the feeling of the majority, receive the Iraqi decision with joy but not malicious joy, and we hope it will complete its peaceful moves in response to the peaceful moves of its adversaries in the Gulf three years ago when they released all the Iraqi POW's and considered that, as far as they were concerned, the war ended with the last shot fired. The Gulf-Iraqi reconciliation trend would depend on Iraq which should reciprocate the good-neighborly approach. Kuwait's concern is justified so long as Iraq continues to threaten it openly and to fabricate crises on its borders. Without any real guarantees for reconciliation, Iraq would not gain much from the mere recognition of Kuwait and its borders. Iraq should realize that there is a desire for reconciliation and a desire to forget the past.

It has ahead a more difficult task than that of recognizing the borders with Kuwait on which it declared war on the pretext of a dispute. Its task is to restore the confidence of others in it and to change the philosophy of its survival to one of achieving superiority through internal development not through external wars.

We believe that Iraq's re-recognition of Kuwait and the fact that it has torn up the 19th province card denoted commendable courage because, although it embarrassed those who had admired Iraq and then abandoned it in times of difficulty, that move was a move in the right direction toward a better future for it and for us all.

Embassy Denies UK Paper's Report on Hit Squad

MM1511165694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Saudi Embassy in London issued a statement yesterday denying the MAIL ON SUNDAY 13 November report claiming that a Saudi assassination squad was sent to London to hunt Saudi oppositionists.

The statement said that "the Saudi Embassy in London is surprised that a respectable paper has published such an untruthful report."

It added that "the report is a mere fabrication. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has never resorted in the past and would never in the future resort to such methods, which run contrary to Arab and Islamic ethics. All observers in the region are aware of this fact."

Yemen

YSP Secretary General Views Domestic Affairs

NC1111174194 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Nov 94 p 8

[Interview with 'Ali Salih 'Abbad, YSP secretary general, by Yusuf al-Sharif in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Sharif] While the YSP's [Yemeni Socialist Party] responsibility for straining the process of unity and conspiring to foil it is no longer doubted by the Yemeni people, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as soon as the war was over, hastened to try to heal the rift. He held a dialogue with various leaders after they stressed their loyalty to unity and accepted that unity was inevitable. What are the results of the mutual discussions?

['Abbad] There is no doubt that President Salih's initiative constitutes outright recognition of our party's political and popular standing, which is impossible to abolish or dispose of at the stroke of a pen. It is also a positive step to show fairness to the YSP's leaders who remained committed to unity and separate them from those who conspired against it. We were told that there were documents and material evidence convicting the separatists. Naturally we are in dire need of these documents

so that the YSP can try them. But these documents have not been handed over to us. The YSP funds remain seized and our headquarters have not been handed over to us. So how can we assume our political responsibilities? President Salih asked 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani to discuss these pending issues and we are still waiting.

[Al-Sharif] You are calling for extending the general amnesty to all YSP political and military leaders and members who committed the crime of secession. Who then is to blame for the war, declaration of secession, and alliance with foreign powers that funded the plot and provided military and information support?

[Abbad] Yes. We demanded that the amnesty be extended to everyone, including the 16 YSP leaders that the authorities defined. Of course there is no objection to putting them on trial or sparing them a trial, which is better so that we can devote time and effort to reconstruction and consolidating our national unity. We aspire to a genuine and comprehensive national reconciliation among all groups to avoid past mistakes within a framework of political plurality. We are not calling for their return as ministers or to high posts, but as Yemeni citizens with the same rights and duties as other citizens. In a sense we want a strong opposition to express its views and exercise its activities within the framework of a democratic formula and commitment to the Constitution. We can thus guarantee national security and stability in Yemen and ward off external threats and enemies' attempts to fish in troubled water.

[Al-Sharif] How many YSP leaders and misled members have fled Yemen?

[Abbad] I do not know for sure. It is said that there are approximately 7,000, including 40 leaders who asked for political asylum in Oman.

[Al-Sharif] Have you tried to convince them to return to Yemen?

[Abbad] I sent envoys to the border area between Yemen and Oman. The envoys persuaded hundreds of YSP members to return to Yemen in response to the general amnesty. Yemeni embassies abroad are continuing this effort and dozens are returning. President Salih is personally continuing his contacts with YSP leaders and assuring them of their safety and livelihood.

[Al-Sharif] Why do you not travel to meet the YSP leaders and convince them to return so that the YSP members can return?

[Abbad] I cannot leave Yemen right now in view of the domestic situation and the task of rebuilding the YSP. But the authorities are considering asking me to perform this mission later.

[Al-Sharif] How does the YSP think the deteriorating economic situation can be addressed?

[Abbad] It can be addressed through genuine national reconciliation and a sincere desire by all the parties to

consolidate it. In June, Yemen's debts totaled \$8 billion and the war added approximately \$10 billion of losses. Yemen is currently suffering debts, losses, high prices, unemployment, the spread of beggars, and illegal accumulation of wealth by some people. We are now in dire need of promoting government performance and its executive institutions and imposing law and order. We need concerted efforts by all groups in accordance with a national revival plan. We need to improve ties with neighboring countries on the basis of mutual political reconciliation. Only then will Arab and foreign funds flow in along with the funds of Yemeni expatriates for investment. Our potential and resources are wasted by instability. Unless we achieve this, Yemen will remain at the edge of the abyss.

[Al-Sharif] The YSP was excluded from power following the war. Do you believe that its presence in the opposition upsets the political and intellectual balance in Yemen?

[Abbad] Actually, we were excluded during the war, but the question is: Why are we excluded now, in peacetime, from major positions, simply because of membership in the party? By what right should the country be denied the service of the experts and cadres of whom it has urgent need?

[Al-Sharif] In my interview with the president, he stressed that the exclusion applies to political positions only, such as the jobs of under secretaries and others. He added that the Civil Service Law guarantees the rights of civil servants and provides equal opportunities to everybody regardless of party loyalties.

[Abbad] Good intentions are one thing and reality another in some cases.

[Al-Sharif] The president also emphasized that backing down on democracy, pluralism, and freedom of expression is impossible. How do you see this in practice?

[Abbad] We indeed need freedom of the press and all restrictions on freedom of expression, which are still being applied, whether directly or indirectly, to be lifted. Some government printing houses refuse to publish party newspapers.

[Al-Sharif] But the market is ripe with various party papers.

[Abbad] Our printing houses, for instance, are still confiscated, so we use private publishers.

[Al-Sharif] Following his return from the United States, where he received treatment, some have blamed [YSP former secretary general] 'Ali Salim al-Bid for sowing the seeds of the crisis, resulting in the war.

[Abbad] Not all the 16 leaders accused of igniting the war and seeking separation are members of the YSP Central Committee or Political Bureau. I believe that Ahmad Baghur, a member of the House of Representatives who has been selected to be a governor, deserves to

be put on the list. Not all of the 16 names had external contacts or received financial transfers to conspire against unity. Al-Bid himself, who has called for unity and merger, is now accused of conspiring against it and is blamed for the secession!

[Al-Sharif] Do you mean to say that unity was achieved behind the back of the YSP?

[Abbad] When the negotiations between Aden and Sanaa reached the final stages for implementing the unity, the brothers in the north submitted two drafts. One was a federation and the other a confederation. The leadership of the YSP did not consider the two drafts and opted for a centralized merger unity, leaving it for Sanaa to take charge of all administrative and executive issues on a central basis. This was done without the party cadres knowing on what basis the merger unity was made and without submitting it for debate by the social organizations. Thus, things gradually started to get complicated and the people started to feel class differences. The same was true of the secession, which was made by a unilateral decision.

[Al-Sharif] There was semi-unanimity among the ruling coalition between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Reform Grouping to blame former Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas for disrupting the functions of the state agencies and failing to solve the masses' problems in a bid to make them lose faith in unity.

[Abbad] I do not have accurate information in this regard. I believe that lamenting the past will not solve the people's urgent problems. Even if it were proved that al-'Attas deliberately obstructed government work, what is urgently needed now is for the new government to make achievements to prove conclusively that al-'Attas was at fault.

[Al-Sharif] Why was the YSP defeated in the war?

[Abbad] From the first day they prompted us to condemn the war and condemn the secession, which were both against the people's desires and will!

[Al-Sharif] In your capacity as a prominent political figure with your own views and convictions, how do you view the mistakes that led to the war and secession by the YSP?

[Abbad] The mistakes were undoubtedly mutual by the parties in power and in the opposition. The shortness of the transitional period may have been the direct reason for obstructing the merger of the Armed Forces, which remained divided for four years after the start of the unity. Were it not for this division, it would have been very hard to get the Army involved in the crisis. I believe that neither the president nor the vice president had the political will to solve the outstanding problems. As far as the YSP is concerned, the fatal mistake made by its leadership was the secession announcement. Had it not taken these steps, it would not have given the legitimate authorities the chance to wage this frenzied campaign,

for which the party is paying the price now. I could say that announcing the secession precipitated the military defeat sustained by the party. One final reason is that the party has turned its back on the masses and on their absolute faith in unity. It also cut its links with its natural political allies and replaced them with political forces that are hostile to unity, such as 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, the leader of the Arab South League Party, who is known for his hostility to the revolution and unity.

Opposition Says al-Bid 'Still in Muscat'

MM1411152294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—AL-HAYAH yesterday received a statement issued by the Yemeni "opposition," denying reports that 'Ali Salim al-Bid has left the Sultanate of Oman for the United Arab Emirates. The statement said: "An authoritative official in the opposition has stated that media reports that 'Ali Salim al-Bid has left the Sultanate of Oman for a neighboring state are untrue and absolutely baseless, and that 'Ali Salim al-Bid is still in Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman and has not left it for any other place."

Nasir Muhammad on His Future Role in Country

MM1611102894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Nov 94 p5

[Interview with former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Ustuwani] What future role could you play in the life of Yemen and its stability?

[Muhammad] I will extend my hand to all the political forces interested in the stability of Yemen and the region and in the inalienable fundamental Yemeni principles including national unity and the pan-Arab and Islamic dimensions, in the interest of preventing the repetition of past tragedies and averting the factors and causes which led to the internal conflicts and Yemeni infighting.

[Al-Ustuwani] You enjoy good relations with the Gulf states. How will you contribute to the restoration of normal relations with them?

[Muhammad] There is no doubt that I do have good relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. [passage omitted]

If I am asked to play any part in that context, I would, without any doubt, be prepared to play that part in the interest of Yemen and the states and peoples of the region. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] There are attempts to marginalize the role of the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP]. What effect will that have on the democratic process in Yemen?

[Muhammad] It would not be in the interest of national unity and democracy to marginalize the role of any of the existing parties in Yemen. We should learn a lesson from past experience to prevent a repetition of what happened in the last Yemeni war. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] What is your position on the Yemeni opposition formed abroad recently? Can Yemeni ranks be unified?

[Muhammad] There is room in Yemen for all trends, views, and ideas. I believe there is room for everyone to serve the interests of Yemen and its people. What matters is goodwill and having a program for the advancement of the Yemeni people to give them security, stability, and development.

[Al-Ustuwani] In what political framework will you play your part?

[Muhammad] I do not contemplate returning to any party or forming a new party. I have wide-ranging relations with all effective Yemeni parties and figures. That would enable me to play my national part in the interest of my people and country and their security and stability.

[Al-Ustuwani] Do you not believe that the new alliance between the [General People's] Congress [GPC] and the [Yemeni] Reform [Grouping] [YRG] and the absence of other parties will undermine political life and take it back to square one?

[Muhammad] I still maintain and emphasize that national unity requires everyone's participation in shouldering the responsibilities and tackling the problems and issues facing Yemen. I warned in the past against the power sharing which occurred on the eve of unity between the YSP and the GPC. The recent war and experience proved me right. I believe that the political forces in Yemen are intelligent enough and alert enough to benefit from past experience and not to repeat things in a different form. [passage omitted]

Government Program Wins House Confidence

JN1511183394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives held a meeting this morning chaired by brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, member of the House Speakership Committee. The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister, and government members.

The House heard a report by the committee assigned with studying the government's general program. The report includes the comment of the House of Representatives on this program.

Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani then spoke and expressed his thanks to the brother House of Representatives members who commented on the program, and said this is evidence of the democratic policy which the house preserves. He expressed the government's commitment to heed the remarks made by representatives of the people and to study them within the framework of the financial capabilities of the state.

He said the government adheres to democracy and dialogue in resolving all disputes, and gives the opposition the right to express its view through all democratic and legitimate means.

He said one of the government's priorities is to end the suffering of citizens, and to work out a comprehensive program for economic reform that includes financial and monetary aspects.

Following the government's assurances and commitment to what is included in its general program and the House's comment, a vote was taken on the government's general program.

The results of voting were as follows: 196 members voted for the program, and 15 members opposed it. Therefore, the government won the necessary majority and the confidence of the people's representatives.

Release of Political Detainees, Torture Viewed

NC1011204694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 10 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 10 Nov (MENA)—The Yemeni weekly AL-THAWRI has reported that the government authorities in Ibb Governorate released 30 political detainees from the al-Haqq [Truth] Party on Tuesday 8 November.

The weekly, the mouthpiece of the central committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, cites an official source in the al-Haqq Party leadership as saying that the detainees were released when the papers published the names of 56 political detainees detained for over two months without any known reason.

The source said that the rest of the detainees, numbering 26, are still being detained in the Sa'dah prisons and are subjected to physical and mental torture to force them to renounce their party affiliation. The source added that many detainees have been threatened with standing trial on false criminal charges if they fail to respond to such threats.

Saddam Reacts to U.S. Remarks on Palaces

*JN1511202894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has said that the U.S. Administration is extremely disturbed by the Iraqis' extraordinary ability to build, create, and reconstruct despite the comprehensive blockade, which has started its fifth year. His excellency noted: What increases the U.S. Administration's wrath and frustration is that the blockade has not only failed to defeat the will of the Iraqis, but has also taught them to be more careful and meticulous in their building and creation efforts and in devising domestic alternatives to maintain production. The U.S. Administration knows that foreign currency is scarce and all types of imports are banned.

His excellency was commenting at the 25th session of the Council of Ministers on the photographs that were exhibited by the U.S. Administration yesterday. The photos were taken by U.S. satellites and spy planes of Iraqi government installations, including the Presidential Palace and other official presidential sites.

His excellency said: The Presidential Palace is a major national symbol. It is the people's palace. As far as the presidential sites are concerned, they are sites for the state and its official guests. They are not in the name of Saddam Husayn, who does not own any of them. They are unlike the palaces and villas owned by some persons in Switzerland, Spain, the United States, Britain, France and elsewhere. Before those installations, which had been targeted by U.S. air and missile bombardment, were rebuilt, the Iraqis built hundreds of bridges, power stations, grids, oil refineries, dams, factories, telecommunications centers, railways, hospitals, and storage houses. The Iraqis also dug hundreds of kilometers of rivers and reclaimed millions of donums of arable land. All that took place and is still taking place under the blockade.

His excellency said: We will continue to build and reconstruct without foreign currency—dollars or otherwise. We will continue to build whatever makes Iraq loftier and increases the prosperity of its people and enhances its deserved prestige and status. We will do that with the same high spirit, inspired by and in keeping with our heritage and its high status. The current stage experienced by our people is a stage of true pride about which history will talk for hundreds of years.

His excellency said: The U.S. Administration is disturbed by the building, for we are building while we are besieged and holding fast. The U.S. Administration and the Zionists do not want the Iraqis to gain more confidence and pride under the circumstances of the blockade. Rather, they want the Iraqis to be desperate and disappointed, sitting to lament the ruins. Entire Iraq has become a workshop, from factories down to farms, except for our people in the northern part of the homeland who have been denied the spirit of reconstruction

and the blessing of science and knowledge. They have been placed in a ghetto-like area, which they called the safe haven, which, as acknowledged by the English and the Americans, is no longer safe.

These do not understand that our wealth lies not in how many dollars we have but in what confidence the people have in themselves and in their leadership and in their belief in God and in their just cause and capable action deriving from pure souls and brains. This is our true wealth, not the kind of wealth they accumulated by looting peoples and robbing them of their wills. It is not the wealth amassed by hired rulers who were imposed on the people.

His excellency said: Iraqis have always been and will always be giants of construction and reconstruction in every area and in all fields of culture and science. The Iraqis take pride in their great achievements, as do their friends. The enemies will be killed by spite and malevolence. We will continue to taunt them with even greater construction and culture and science with each passing day.

His excellency added: They want to keep Iraq devastated because building Iraq scares them. They do not want any real edifice to rise in Iraq. Whatever rises in Iraq strikes fear in their hearts. They want to destroy Iraq with rockets or through sanctions or other evil means.

His excellency asked: Does such conduct become a major power? Does such conduct become civilized people?

Concluding his speech, his excellency told the Cabinet members: Let us build Iraq, and let our enemies die in their spite and rancor.

The main item in the 25th session of the Cabinet was the development of irrigation projects and reclamation of agricultural land in central and southern Iraq, including the reclamation of 1,123,000 new donums of agricultural land. They are slated to be ready by the next agricultural season in the fall.

After an exhaustive discussion, his excellency ordered that clear formulas be adopted in contracts for the implementation of projects, including follow ups. He ordered that no gaps be left in planning or implementation that may lead to some people being involved in illegal behavior, since it is important that we do not win projects and lose the individual.

His excellency said: As you have noticed, your enemies are afraid of building. However, what counts is not just the material construction only. It is important that, as we build, we do not lose sight of the individual, who is our be-all and end-all and the tool of our construction. When the structure rises without spoiling the character we will have won materially and spiritually, practically and morally.

The Council of Ministers approved these projects and adopted the formulas needed to implement the leader

president's recommendations. The Cabinet then discussed a draft law of the Iraqi ports and decided to refer it to the National Assembly. It then addressed a number of organizational issues and made the necessary decisions.

Saddam Congratulates 'Arafat on 'Anniversary'

JN1511103594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO, on the sixth anniversary of the declaration of the establishment of the State of Palestine.

The cable says: On the sixth anniversary of the declaration of the establishment of the State of Palestine, we are pleased to extend to your excellency our best wishes, wishing you continued good health and happiness and the fraternal Palestinian Arab people success in achieving their national objectives.

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With UN Envoys in New York

JN1611094194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2155 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 15 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with a number of UN Security Council members today, Tuesday.

At his place of residence in New York, the deputy prime minister met with David Hannay, Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations, Juan Yanez-Barnuevo, Spain's permanent representative to the United Nations, Lorenzo Fararin [name as transliterated], deputy to the permanent Italian representative to the United Nations, and [name indistinct], New Zealand's permanent representative to the United Nations.

It is worth mentioning that [word indistinct] is one of the states which will become member of the UN Security Council as of 1 January 1995.

'Udayy Husayn Named Youth Organization President

JN1011165894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 31 Oct 94 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat (INA)—The Executive Committee of the Nonaligned Student and Youth Organization has named 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, president of the Cultural Alliance in Iraq, honorary president of the organization.

The committee explained in a message it addressed to 'Udayy Saddam Husayn at the conclusion of its third session in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, today, that the decision was made in appreciation of the efforts that

'Udayy Saddam Husayn has exerted in the service of the student and youth movement, out of appreciation for his continuous support for the organization's work and activities, and in commendation of the Iraqi students' and youths' steadfastness under his leadership in the face of the imperialist aggression and its allies. [passage omitted]

Husayn Kamil Faction Reportedly Strengthened

MM1611122894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Conflict Between Iraqi Government Wings After Abolition of the Planning Ministry on Saddam's Orders"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Iraqi sources have stated that this week's decision abolishing the planning ministry strengthens the hand of the wing represented by Husayn Kamil, President Saddam Husayn's brother-in-law, in the chronic conflicts between the various government wings.

According to the same sources, a serious crisis had emerged between the Military Industrialization Authority and the planning ministry last July, and at a cabinet meeting Husayn Kamil attacked Planning Minister Samal Najib Faraj (of Kurdish origin) and accused him of exaggerating the figures he announced about military industrialization and of blaming him for the collapse of the Iraqi economy.

In reply, Minister Faraj said at the time that the Military Industrialization Authority was responsible for the economic chaos because it spent large sums of money without planning or control and without a studied scientific and financial program. As a result of the contradictions, the minister was relieved of his post and, on the Iraqi president's orders, a committee was formed to wind up the ministry's work. [passage omitted]

Barzani, Talabani Discuss Kurdistan Conditions

JN1211212294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our party leader brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani received in Salah-al-Din this morning, 12 November, Mr. Jalal Talabani and members of the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Members of our party's political bureau attended.

A bilateral meeting was held to review the conditions in Kurdistan and bilateral relations, especially regarding the normalization process and the difficulties faced by the Kurdistan region's government.

The meeting lasted until 1600.

Barzani, Talabani Chair Joint Kurdish Meeting*JN1611115894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the cochairmanship of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, the Political Bureaus of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan held a meeting in the summer resort of Salah al-Din yesterday afternoon, 14 November. This meeting is a continuation of the bilateral meetings the two sides have been holding over the past few days to normalize the situation in the region and discuss other important issues pertaining to the National Council and the region's government.

Papers Criticize U.S. Stand at UN Security Council*JN1611114894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Today's Iraqi newspapers attacked the U.S. Administration's lies against Iraq, which seek to find false pretexts to maintain the blockade.

In their editorials, they recalled what President Saddam Husayn stressed yesterday, during a Council of Ministers' session, when he said that rancor, hatred, and fear of a strong Iraq motivate those who claim to be civilized.

In this regard and in an article written by its editor-in-chief Taha al-Basri, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: What is being built by Iraq are houses to which the children of the people turn, so, as the leader of the people, Saddam Husayn, can solve their problems when others fail to solve them.

The paper adds: The people's house, in which Saddam Husayn works day and night, receives more citizens than any ministry. These citizens find all love and care there, as well as the proposition, as the Arabs say. These are not, as they claim, Saddam Husayn's palaces. It is the rancor which is boiling in the chests of these enemies—the U.S. Administration and its Zionist allies—against the giant Iraq which is waging struggle, working, and reconstructing.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ denounced the recent U.S. stand toward Iraq's initiatives to achieve peace and stability.

It says: Washington began a new hatred campaign at the United Nations against the Iraqis because they have reconstructed all that has been destroyed by the evildoers in the aggressive 30-state alliance.

The paper says: This stand has clearly exposed to the international community that the United States, through its practices in the past and present, confronts any country which looks forward to development and awakening, and to mastering science, progress, and cultural development in all fields brutally and with unjust wars.

The newspaper BABIL says: He who is armed with the weapon of brute force will never have sound logic, because he will rely on the law of the jungle just as the U.S. tyrant did during the recent UN Security Council's consultations through its representative, the snake Albright, who nonsensically said that Iraq does not need money to feed its people because it is building palaces.

Here we have no choice but to quote the Russian envoy at the UN Security Council, who replied to Albright's nonsense by saying that this has nothing to do with the sanctions imposed on Iraq. He added that palaces are not mentioned in the UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper says: Let us suppose that Iraq has huge funds under the blockade. Does this give anyone the right to maintain the blockade on it? According to this twisted logic, blockades should be clamped on the rich states in the world.

The paper says that the logic of the U.S. tyrant sank too low, and its bad intentions against our people have been exposed. However, our people will pursue the march of reconstruction.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH accused the U.S. Administration of planning to fragment Iraq and to ignite ethnic and sectarian war among the children of its people.

The paper says: The children of Iraq, with their nationalist spirit and concern for reconstructing what has been destroyed by the aggressors, have aborted the Washington politicians' dreams of seeing Iraq like Rwanda or Yugoslavia where thousands of people are starving to death everyday.

The paper stresses the high nationalist and jihad morale of every Iraqi. It says: Had its settlers been exposed to a small fraction of what the Iraqis have been exposed to, the United States would have turned into arenas for the most hideous civil wars, become fragmented, and turned into statelets which lack inhabitants because the settlers will go back to their countries of origin.

Writer on Optimism Concerning Blockade Crisis*JN1111072094 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 5 Nov 94 p 1*

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "A Crisis of Thought or a Crisis of Blockade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some ask me: Where does all your optimism come from? Others say, with sophistry: Objective signs render your optimism unpalatable.

Such questions loom as a crisis due to a thought blockade rather than a crisis due to an economic blockade. Negative developments in the Arab homeland and the world are echoed here. Enemies of the nation are focusing on specific issues, something that is purposefully done so the essence will not be lost in the rush.

What is being demanded is a conviction, first of all, that any course falling outside the framework of submitting to U.S. willpower is an impossible course; that the only objective should be to fulfill material needs regardless of how this is done; and that sovereignty and reconstruction have become worn out concepts.

Here I notice that some tangible facts are being neglected. They are, briefly, as follows:

No power in the universe, except that of almighty God, can renew and control the course of our diverse and expansive world. The United States cannot feed the hungry, who account for 90 percent of the Earth's population. Besides, it does not want to do so because its power and interest thrive on the misery of the world. Hence, our world does not just suffer. It is a world that is aware, too. Awareness is tension that can change into power. The United States will not be an exception to the rule that stipulates that quantitative change can lead to a qualitative change when it comes to the rise and fall of empires. The United States is not the only power. Its big interests are challenged by other big interests.

As much as the issue is related to us in Iraq, our victory at this historical stage lies in our survival, especially since the United States wants our perdition. Whoever can confront such serious challenges must have the power, the will, and the potential to justify his existence the way he wants.

The United States did its best to boycott China and refused to recognize it. Then, it had to recognize China because of its size and status. It will do so with Iraq. Therefore, with my apologies to the sophists, objective signs are what confirms the legitimacy of optimism.

U.S.-Iranian Anti-Iraq 'Partnership' Viewed

JN1411203994 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
9 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

["Viewpoint" column by chief editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Tehran's Snakes Dance on Washington's Snake-Charmer's Tune"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian Government has encroached on Iraq, violated its sovereignty, and threatened its security by firing missiles at Iraqi territories. It also admitted that it had attacked the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization positions inside Iraq with missiles!

It appears that this action is something normal and permitted although the region is replete with early warning systems and although 19 U.S. satellites have been launched since 2 August 1990, some of which are devoted to monitoring missiles and their uses!

How did the Iranian Government do this, and why? What is the link between the U.S. position and the new Iranian aggression? One of the most important manifestations of the strange relationship between the United States and the current Iranian regime is the verbal

tension. This tension is sometimes severe, thus increasing the expectations that the United States will launch a military attack on Iran. However, the verbal battles in which both parties use very strong words has not even scratched the Iranian regime's ugly face. This face is as ugly as the face of the accursed American!

Moreover, it has become familiar that whenever the U.S. hostile tone toward Iran increases, and whenever the Tehran government replies with intercontinental missiles whose basic explosive material is actually empty words, this means that another party, particularly Iraq, will be attacked by the United States or subjected to a new Iranian aggression, or at best, Iran will accuse Iraq of taking actions which the United States will use as a pretext to perpetuate the blockade!

Throughout the tenure of the current Iranian regime, its leaders have been fighting the United States with words. Their poisoned bullets, however, have always been directed at the chests of the Iraqis! We have become so accustomed to this phenomenon that it has become part of the axioms of the contemporary regional relations.

When the administration of the current President Bill Clinton adopted the dual containment policy, it was clear to anyone studying it in depth that one of its most important elements, reading between the lines, was tacit encouragement of Iran to extend the services rendered in its regional moves. This falls within the framework of Washington's criminal policy designed to annihilate millions of Iraqis and partition Iraq.

Hence, the containment of Iran—as was explained by Anthony Lake, a National Security adviser—ranks second in importance to the containment of Iraq. According to Lake, the Iranian regime can be contained, while the Iraqi leadership and regime cannot. Thus, the problems with Iran can be resolved by dialogue and understanding, while such a solution with Iraq can only be achieved through violence!

The snakes of the Orient in Tehran have realized the unwritten positions which Washington wants them to take. Thus, they frequently fabricated events which were used against Iraq. The so-called problem of the marsh Arabs, which is highlighted in the western-Zionist media, is merely an example of the solemn services Tehran is rendering for Washington which seeks to colonize Iraq and the region. The false witnesses were the Iranians, the statements made were also Iranian, and the fact-finding committees went to Iran!

Therefore, the strong and firm Iranian-U.S. partnership, which was enhanced, and not weakened, by the mutual media campaigns, is not based on identical slogans or on similar formal or partial actions and positions. Rather, this partnership is based on the distribution of roles, so each side plays a role which will make it trustworthy in certain circles!

During the U.S.-Iranian partnership, the chapter of treachery and treason took place, and the no-fly-zone

was imposed on the south with the hope that Iran would succeed in sending a few thousand infiltrators into southern Iraq to create new riots to be exploited by America to land troops there on the pretext of "protecting inhabitants." With the failure of all Iran's efforts, and the realization of its snakes that their role was about to end as a result of their inefficient services to America, they began to play another wicked game; namely, to insinuate that Iran would be forced to ally itself with Iraq if America does not change its stands toward it quickly and give it the security, economic, and political support that it badly needs.

Within the framework of these tactics, Iranian statements were issued which appeared to be positive. Tehran also chose a certain time to announce that its foreign minister would visit Iraq, which was when the Iranian regime's internal crisis reached its peak on the economic, security, and political levels, and also when the U.S. plotting, the extension of the blockade, reached its peak. This is as if Tehran wanted to tell Washington: We have rendered the maximum possible services to you, and what you want us to do is beyond our ability. If you do not give us what we need and quickly, we will be compelled to look for another formula which might annoy you.

The Iranian leaders' statements during the crossing [to safe shores] crisis were, in form and content, a humiliating appeasement to America. The Persian chauvinism has vomited all its ugliness and dirtiness when it used to insult the Arabs as a people, not as governments. For example, one of the regime's prominent leaders used an expression and repeated it in a noticeable manner; namely, "the despicable acts of the Arabs." These leaders did not waste time to attack Iraq and the leader of Iraq with the same language used by the rulers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Kuwait. This is why Washington awarded the serpents of the east, which are hidden in their dark dens in Tehran, with a U.S. State Department statement attacking the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and considering it a "terrorist organization which cooperates with Iraq." It then submitted it to the U.S. Congress. A large number of Congressmen expressed their sympathy with the Mojahedin-e Khalq and called for toppling the Iranian regime.

The U.S. State Department supported the Iranian regime openly against the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization which succeeded in escalating its popular struggle and pushing that regime to the brink of collapse. Does this stand have any significance other than throwing a bone to the hungry Iranian regime which was forced to eat even a stone?

At this time in particular, and amid the atmosphere of the U.S. support for the Tehran regime, the serpents of the east fired missiles at Iraq. The thing which proves that Washington is the one which encouraged the serpents of the east in Tehran to perpetrate their new crime is that Clinton's administration did not view this action

within the framework of its universal strategy which was applied to Iraq in an extreme manner; namely, the strategy of banning and destroying the medium-range and long-range missiles in the world in general, and the Arabian Gulf in particular.

Clinton, and before him criminal Bush have created a hue and cry in the world about destroying and banning missiles on the pretext of protecting security and stability in the world. The UN Security Council resolutions included clear provisions which obligated Iraq to destroy its missiles with a range of more than 150 km. This is why the inspection committees destroyed the Iraqi missiles which used to reach Tehran. Iraq now has short-range missiles only. This has encouraged the serpents of the east to play their old role of shelling Iraq's cities with missiles.

Here, let's pause a while and ask Mr. Clinton: Did you, Mr. President, set out deliberately to take out Iraq's medium-range missiles to calm Iran's fears and give it back the role of a regional policeman hostile to Iraq? Your stupid teachers, especially Anthony Lake and Martin Indyk, have been talking about dual containment of Iran and Iraq, forgetting that stripping Iraq of medium-range missiles while leaving Iran in possession of them will not only disturb the balance between the two countries, but will also open the door to another kind of crisis that they painted to you as being controllable! However, their stupidity and anti-Iraq and anti-Arab sentiments have blinded them to everything except the sight of Iran committing aggression against Iraq and violating its sovereignty! As for the consequences, they have chosen to close their eyes to them!

Therefore, Mr. Clinton, we would like you to listen and mind what we say: Your silence on Iran's use of missiles against Iraq once again shows you to be following double standards. While Iraq has been stripped of its medium-range missiles, Iran is being allowed to have more of them. You even turn a blind eye to Iran's development of its nuclear capabilities, and have not taken a single step to prevent that from happening, neither by blocking their sales nor in any other way like when you asked the Zionist entity to use them against Iraq in 1981 or when you used them against Iraq in 1991 and afterwards.

You have been reticent and, in the meantime, you pursued the dual containment policies. You limited yourself to reporting on the new Iranian aggression. This is despite the fact that UN resolutions provide for safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. You chose to forget a promise you made to the world, especially the republics of the former Soviet Union, and that is that you will protect the states that will abandon their strategic weapons and are targeted by aggression from other states!

We cannot, therefore, but draw the conclusion that the Iranian aggression against Iraq falls within the framework of your game of aggression against Iraq. You yourself will come to the natural conclusion that this new

Iranian aggression will prompt Iraq to brace for the worst scenario, considering that Iran is your abiding partner in your anti-Iraq and anti-Arab policies.

Last but not least, do you, Mr. Clinton, understand the east, the cunning of its snakes, the wisdom of its peoples, and their remarkable capacity for endurance and response in ways unfamiliar to you? Bear in mind that the expression shrewdness originates in the east. Bear in mind that the shrewdness of the east, beginning from China and ending in Iraq, which you may sometimes interpret as naiveness or a leap in the dark, has shaped the course of history and is shaping it now. Do not look just to Asia—the Pacific Ocean that has become the commercial center of the world. Before that, look at the Arabian Gulf and the forces beneath its sands and waters that neither your satellites nor your prospectors can see, having been blinded by oil.

Envoy to Arab League Denies Contacts With Israel

NC1511213294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Mr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League in Cairo, has said that Iraq's positive stance and response to Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Gulf crisis will contribute to the lifting of the siege of Iraq in the coming months and will strengthen the position of those countries inside the Security Council which support lifting the siege.

Ambassador Nabil Najm said in statements to MENA today that Iraq had previously cooperated with the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding Kuwaiti prisoners and facilitated its search for the prisoners, as well as information gathering on them and missing persons. He pointed out that the committee praised Iraq's stand on this during the recent meeting held in Geneva to follow up on this topic.

He added that Iraq gave responses on this issue to all parties that asked for it to be discussed, both within the framework of the Arab League and Gulf countries and through the initiative of King Hassan II of Morocco.

Regarding Iraq's stand on Arab reconciliation, Ambassador Nabil Najm said Iraq believes it is important to concentrate on commonalities for Arab cooperation, if there is in fact a real desire to search for true reconciliation and solidarity. He called for opening a new chapter in Arab relations and forgetting the past.

In conclusion, Iraq's representative to the Arab League denied reports of meetings between Iraq and Israel. He said that these reports are totally untrue.

Opposition on Saddam Actions, Kuwait Recognition

JN1611133694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest edition of the newspaper AL-MUWATIN [citizen], mouthpiece of the Iraqi

Democratic Party, published a front-page article entitled "After Reaching the Brink of Collapse, the Regime Recognizes Kuwait. The Iraqi Opposition Shoulders the Responsibility for Ending the Suffering of the Iraqi People." The article says: Since Saddam Husayn assumed power in Iraq and has maintained absolute control over the destinies of the country, the region has not tasted peace or stability. He has not hesitated to commit the most grisly and brutal crimes against the Iraqi people. He drove them collectively to the yards of death. He also interfered in the domestic affairs of most of the region's countries and encroached on the sanctity of their territories and caused them disasters. In all these actions, he depended on the contradictions and hotbeds of tension he created in order to achieve his lowly aims. Therefore, he lost all his credibility and trust placed in him and his rule.

Saddam Husayn, who waged a frantic eight-year war against Iran without any justification, came back and declared—on top of the corpses of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi youths—that the war was a mistake. Saddam Husayn, who invaded Kuwait to return the branch to the origin and who inflicted hunger and humiliation on Iraqis for several years, comes back today to recognize a new Kuwait, whose borders extend into Iraqi territory and the Umm Qasr port. What has this hero of pan-Arab liberation done?

All realize that this despot cares about nothing but staying in power, especially since his only enemy now is the Iraqi people. He gave Iran what it wanted. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia re-delineated its borders with Iraq and Jordan also modified its borders at the expense of Iraq. Now he shamelessly recognizes Kuwait's new borders without feeling any pangs of conscience. Does he believe he is still victorious? The least any other leader would have done in such a case would have been to step down and commit suicide, especially after all these scandals and defeats. But, when has this sadistic monster ever had a human feeling or observed a moral constraint?

What is important is that the whole world knows Saddam Husayn full well. He is absolutely an unreliable ruler. Everyone saw him sign the Algiers agreement with the Shah of Iran and saw him tearing it up before millions of Iraqis on television screens. Then he came back and recognized it after his al-Qadisiyah [battle]. We believe that Saddam Husayn is finished. It is useless for him to cling to the seat of power. Nothing will spare him his black end no matter what he does. These events have once again given rise to the question among various circles about the usefulness of this regime's stay in power, given its involvement in fabricating crises and threatening regional peace and security.

Present conditions, after the recent fumbling of the Iraqi regime, are most favorable for the Iraqi opposition to close its ranks and pool efforts to salvage the Iraqi people from their prolonged ordeal. Actually, signs of a serious

move by some Iraqi opposition forces have started to loom on the horizon. We greatly hope that all opposition forces, regardless of their factions and leanings, will rise above their secondary differences, meet the requirements of the stage, and shoulder their historic responsibility toward toppling the regime.

Air Defense Command Attends Graduation Ceremony

JN1411084394 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 8 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by 'Ali Shamkhi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Air Force command yesterday celebrated the graduation of the 39th class of the combat formation commanders and the 16th class of the air combat controllers.

The ceremony was attended by Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, the air force commander, and Staff Major General Mahdi Salih Fathi, commander of air defense. [passage omitted]

Saddam Sends Rice Harvesters to al-Basrah

JN1011165094 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 31 Oct 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has made a generous gift of 20 rice harvesters to farmers in al-Basrah Governorate. The harvesters were distributed by Governor Latif Mahal Humud at a ceremony during which the beneficiaries expressed their affection for leader President Saddam Husayn and their appreciation for the kind care and attention he gives to peasants and the sons of his brave people.

Rice Harvest Begins in al-Qadisiyah Region

JN1011165294 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 1 Nov 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Peasants and farmers in Al-Qadisiyah Governorate yesterday began their manual harvest of rice for this season. An Iraqi News Agency correspondent in the governorate reported some 5,000 peasants are taking part in this campaign. Meanwhile, seven marketing centers have begun receiving this crop from producers. Previously, the agricultural department made all preparations and ensured all requirements for the harvest and marketing, including spare equipment, and opened three workshops to maintain harvesters.

Rabin Leaves for U.S., To Meet President Clinton

TA1511200994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000
GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left for the United States where he will meet President Bill Clinton. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the talks in Washington will focus on economic issues and on difficulties in the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Rabinovich Cited on Impact of U.S. Elections on Aid

TA1511123994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
15 Nov 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Obviously, the primary effort must be directed at the new Republican leadership in Congress, the chairmen and members of the committees," Israel's Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich wrote in a report he sent to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem about the implications of the results of the U.S. congressional elections.

Rabinovich believes that "getting the aid package approved by both houses of Congress will be more difficult this year, both regarding the basic aid (\$3 billion a year) and the sums allocated separately by the congressional committees."

According to the ambassador, "approval of aid that is not given directly to Israel but is earmarked to advance the peace process, such as participation in the trilateral talks (the joint economic talks between Israel, Jordan, and the United States), will meet tougher opposition than the aid package to Israel."

Rabinovich believes that the peace process will be affected by the results of the elections due to the negative attitude of some new congressional leaders toward Syria and the PLO. According to him, "the criticism leveled against the participants in the peace process by conservative Republicans such as Al D'Amato and Saxton will carry far more weight."

The ambassador believes that U.S. President Bill Clinton will henceforth increase his involvement in foreign policy because he will enjoy more freedom of action in this area than in domestic policy. For their part, the Republicans in Congress will try to influence foreign policy, "and there will be mutual efforts to redefine the rules of the game on this issue between the administration and the Congress."

A position paper drafted last weekend by the Foreign Ministry's Political Planning Department notes that Clinton may at this point have no choice other than to turn to foreign policy to be able to show any results, because those will be hard to come by in the domestic arena.

Harry Qney-Tal, head of the Political Planning Department, suggests a comprehensive revision of the behavior of Israel and its supporters in Washington, a stronger emphasis on cooperation with the new leadership in Congress, and a reorganization of the pro-Israeli lobby AIPAC [America Israel Public Affairs Committee]. Qney-Tal believes that Clinton's declarations concerning aid to Israel must henceforth be taken "with a grain of salt" because this will have to be approved by Congress.

Rabinovich Comments on Senator Helms' Stand on Aid

TA1611071894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505
GMT 16 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by Karmit Gay; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Gay] We asked Ambassador Rabinovich about his conversation with Senator Jesse Helms on the U.S. aid issue:

[Rabinovich] The senator told me that the reports were inaccurate. He does have some criticism of the U.S. foreign aid policy—and we are familiar with that criticism—but he said explicitly that there is a difference between his general stand on foreign aid and his stand on aid for Israel. Although his stand is not identical to ours, he believes that aid for Israel is a positive step.

[Gay] How does he explain it?

[Rabinovich] He says that Israel is a strategic asset and that, had it not been for Israel's presence in the region, the U.S. position in the region would have been much worse; that Israel's existence and military capability save the United States a great deal of money; and that the United States must therefore invest in Israel's security by making a direct investment, not necessarily through foreign aid. This is not exactly how we, the administration, and many of our friends view the issue, but it is definitely grounds for a dialogue that I am positive we will culminate in mutual understanding.

[Gay] Did you understand, from your conversation with him and other elements, that there is a chance foreign aid will remain unaffected?

[Rabinovich] There is certainly a chance. We must remember that the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee and its chairman are only one of a number of elements that shape the policy and the process that will decide the amount of aid. Israel has many friends and political assets, and I think it also has a very valid argument. Therefore, I think there is a good chance the issue will be favorably resolved. This is not to say, however, that we will not have to work harder this year and, perhaps, in a somewhat different manner than the last year or two.

[Gay] Because of the complexity of the U.S. Government system?

[Rabinovich] Yes, because the distribution of power and the work procedures in a system where the administration is from one party and Congress is governed by another mean a different style of management in the United States and a different approach for us vis-à-vis the administration and Congress. [passage omitted]

Envoys Instructed on Policy Statements on U.S. Aid

TA1611064194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The U.S. aid issue is still troubling some high-ranking political elements in Jerusalem who believe it is highly important that American funds be granted to the Arab peace process partners, too, and that without that, peace may be in trouble. As a result, Jerusalem has instructed the Israeli representations in the United States and AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] on several guidelines they are to follow in their contacts with congressmen and senators.

The view to be conveyed to the U.S. elements is as follows: The Jordanian debt write-off should continue, after Jordan signed a peace agreement with Israel; it is vital that Palestinians continue receiving funds; and the Syrians may also require a lot of American money, provided the Israeli-Syrian process continues. An additional issue the Israeli representatives and lobbyists are to discuss is the U.S. troop deployment on the Golan Heights. The only issue that seems less of a problem is foreign aid to Israel.

Minister on Proposed 'Voluntary' Reduction in U.S. Aid

TA1611111194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Nov p 1

[Report by Alon Pinkas and Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel is considering gradually and voluntarily relinquishing the \$1.2 billion in US economic aid it receives annually, a senior minister said yesterday.

The move would help President Bill Clinton deal with a new Republican Congress and prevent any upcoming debate over aid to Israel.

The idea of a voluntary relinquishment of the \$1.2b. in annual economic assistance has been frequently deliberated in diplomatic circles since the 1992 presidential elections in the US, and was supported by officials in the Foreign Ministry, Israeli embassy in Washington, and Treasury, according to the minister. [passage omitted]

Another discussion on the issue took place several days ago as indications emerged pointing to a possible US review of the entire foreign aid issue.

Most of the \$1.2b. is used to repay Israel's debts to the US, but the minister stressed that Israel is capable of repaying debts without the aid. Israel currently owes the US nearly \$3.5b.

"There are immense political advantages in voluntarily saying to the US: 'Thanks for years of assistance, but we are now financially stable and wealthy enough to get along without it,'" the minister said.

Bank of Israel Governor Ya'akov Frenkel yesterday emphasized the important role US aid to Israel plays in easing the financial burden of the peace process and the continued absorption of immigrants.

At a meeting with US Senator Barbara Boxer from California, who is heading an American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) delegation visit here, Frenkel responded to the concerns raised by Helms's threat to cut aid to the Middle East.

Frenkel noted that Israel now finds itself in a very special period where its economy is burdened with the need to maintain the peace process and its security. He added that the economy also needs to continue expanding to create jobs to enable the absorption of new immigrants. Therefore, if properly used, US assistance will provide a strong impetus for encouraging these processes, he said.

Netanyahu Comments on U.S. Economic, Military Aid

TA1311104494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Nov 94 p A8

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu suggests that the government adopt a multiyear plan to wean itself off U.S. economic aid and part of U.S. military aid.

Netanyahu noted that during the Shamir government, when he was Israel's UN ambassador, and later as deputy foreign minister, he warned of an ongoing U.S. trend to cut aid to Israel. The results of the congressional elections are part of that process, which is focused mainly on domestic affairs.

In Netanyahu's view, the upheaval in Congress will also foil the U.S. Administration's intention to dispatch an American force to the Golan Heights within the framework of security arrangements in the region, if a peace accord is signed.

Netanyahu said that about six months ago he had a long meeting in the United States with Senator Robert Dole, who was firmly opposed to sending an American expeditionary force to the Golan Heights. In Netanyahu's view, the revolution in the U.S. Congress is positive

since it might now lead to demands on al-Asad and not Israel to make concessions on the Golan.

The Likud chairman believes that Americans will now weigh their financial aid to the Palestinians more cautiously, although the scope is not large—some \$100 million over several years. In Netanyahu's view, the Americans will avoid transferring the funds to the Palestinians as long as a suitable mechanism is not set up to assure the control and distribution of the funds in the autonomy.

Netanyahu believes that if Israel takes adequate timely steps a cut in American aid might benefit it in some ways, just as the French arms embargo led to the development of Israel's defense industries. In his view, suitable economic preparations can help Israel move toward economic independence. Nevertheless, he expressed doubt about whether the Rabin government is preparing itself for such a possibility; therefore, a cut in the scope of American aid to Israel might send shock waves through the Israeli economy.

The Likud chairman said that proof that the government is not preparing for such a possibility can be found in its budget for next year, which has been presented for Knesset approval. The budget has not been cut significantly and is similar to the 1991 budget when immigration reached a peak.

Netanyahu believes that speeding up the privatization and liberalization of the economy can lead to economic growth and a rise in the GNP, which would make American aid less significant. Already, he noted, U.S. economic aid to Israel does not surpass 1.5 percent of the GNP.

U.S. Republican Victory Effect on Peace Analyzed

TA1311145694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Nov 94 p B1

[Editorial: "Republican Majority in the Congress]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Congress, especially the House of Representatives, has been dominated by the Democratic Party for decades, even when a Republican candidate was elected President. The elections held at the beginning of last week brought about a fundamental change in the balance of power: both houses of Congress became Republican bastions, while the U.S. President, who was the Democratic candidate, undoubtedly remains faithful to his party's principles.

All the pundits are unanimous in agreeing that most of the voters would like to shift the President's policies to the right. Bill Clinton does not believe that the election results reflect dissatisfaction with him as head of the Executive Branch. Clinton attributes the Republican victory and his party's defeat to the public's general disappointment with the political establishment.

If such disappointment exists, it should not be confused with the widespread feeling of "ennui" toward all political parties, that former German President Richard Von-Weizsacker noted several years ago. Republicans are just like Democrats. They are both parties that seek votes to control the administration. In the United States, the establishment is identified with Washington, and both terms are synonymous with large bureaucratic organizations which squeeze too much money out of the taxpayers' pockets. If the Republicans deserve to be labeled "conservative," it is only because their conservative bent is reflected in their call to restrain the administration's inclination to increase federal and state budgets.

The concept of economic aid for foreign countries has never been popular among the American public. Jesse Helms, the Republican who is expected to be elected chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, does not hide his frustration with the fact that the United States has spent \$80-\$100 billion on the Middle East peace process since the Camp David accords as well as complaining in general that "the United States spends too much money on NATO and the United Nations."

Helms is the true voice of American isolationism. Helms' tone is reminiscent of those Americans who criticized Woodrow Wilson for attempting to integrate the United States in the League of Nations and those who tried to dissuade President Roosevelt from joining the coalition against Nazi Germany.

We do not like the sound of this. Helms is a friend of Israel. So much a friend that he is opposed to any withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Actually, most Republicans in the House of Representatives and the Senate have made speeches and declarations in support of Israel. Common wisdom dictates that military and civilian economic aid to Israel will be maintained at its present level; but the trend in principle toward foreign aid cutbacks may also harm Israel if it affects the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt.

Nevertheless, we must remember that a new President has not been elected. Clinton will remain in office and continue to exert his authority. Israel is duty bound to explain to Congress that it views Clinton as a loyal friend. We must not forgo his involvement in the peace process, especially with regard to the Syrian track. The Congress should back whatever the President and secretary of state can do to achieve a peace treaty between Syria and Israel.

Israel has always sought to place American public support for the Jewish state beyond the domestic disagreements which separate the two large parties. A Republican majority in Congress need not necessarily bring back the Eisenhower-Dulles era of the 1950's, and there is room to hope that the recent upheaval in Congress will not hinder President Clinton's ability to make progress with us—as he promised in his speech before the Knesset—toward Damascus, peace, and security.

Columnist Compares Clinton Election Fate With Rabin*TA1511153494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Nov 94 p 7*

["Leaks in the Pipeline" column by Moti Bassok: "Rabin in Clinton's Footsteps?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The defeat Bill Clinton suffered in the midterm elections in the United States should turn on red lights at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and at Labor Party headquarters on Hayarqon Street in Tel Aviv. Despite all the differences between Washington and Jerusalem, between U.S. and Israeli politics, and between Clinton and Rabin, it is very hard to ignore the numerous similarities between what happened there and what is happening here.

Clinton was elected President of the United States two years ago in personal elections. Rabin was elected prime minister two years and five months ago in the most personal elections ever held in Israel. If nothing unexpected happens, the next U.S. President and Israeli prime minister will be elected in November 1996. In both cases the elections will be personal. Before the midterm elections Clinton claimed that his administration had scored a big success in economic issues, including impressive data about economic growth and a large drop in unemployment. In his opinion, his administration also scored impressive achievements in foreign policy. Clinton got a response from the U.S. people at the ballot box. We all hear and see what the Rabin government says about changing national priorities, allocating more funds to social welfare, improving roads, peace with Jordan and a peace process with the Palestinians, and maybe a peace process with Syria by the time of the elections. It is very hard to tell what the people say and think despite the latest public opinion polls which have been progressively flattering of Binyamin Netanyahu and less of Rabin, and certainly of the Labor Party and its partner Meretz. There are no midterm elections in Israel, and public opinion changes, sometimes dramatically, in the wake of one-time events.

However, one thing is almost certain and has been a recurrent theme in all polls in recent months. The Israeli public gives very poor marks to the government on domestic issues, particularly in the social sphere. Just like the Americans proved at the ballot box last week, the Israelis also believe that Rabin, the Labor Party, and Meretz were generous and made lots of promises when they were in the opposition, especially on the eve of the elections, but after the elections they proved inept and did nothing with regard to social issues and personal welfare. Just like in the United States, people in Israel do not trust the establishment and politicians.

What is to show for of Labor's big promises on domestic issues on the eve of elections? Nothing but an improvement in the condition of a few intercity roads. All the talk about improving the education system and the

status of teachers was just hot air, unless the prime minister believes that creating an education system for the haves and one for the have-nots is an improvement. The health system has also deteriorated, and now we have a lot less health for much more money. The destruction of the Histadrut labor federation will very soon lead to the creation of two types of workers: those who belong to strong labor unions and all others.

Clinton was dealt a very severe blow, notwithstanding his achievements abroad. Now he knows that words alone will not stop his own party, the Democratic Party, from kicking him out in two years. What do the Israeli people want? They want peace with their neighbors, personal security, dignified work, good education for their children, health, and less debts from the bank. Rabin says he cannot assure personal security. The Republicans in the United States and Netanyahu in Israel say they know how to fight violence/terror. If Rabin continues to leave the economy in the hands of the well-to-do Shohat-Fogel-Brodet-Frenkel team, if he continues to believe that Shim'on Sheves will bring down the price of apartments, and if he continues to invest all his energy in peace and security issues, come November 1996 he may also find out that the people turned their backs on him despite the peace agreements.

NRP, Tzomet Submit No-Confidence Motion on Syria*TA0911163594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The NRP [National Religious Party] and Tzomet Knesset factions have submitted a no-confidence motion against the backdrop of the government's peace talks with Syria and the plan to implement the second stage of the Oslo Agreement. The Knesset will raise the motion next Monday [14 November].

Peres on Nuclear Inspections, Talks With Syria*NC0911170994 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 9 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 9 (AFP)—Israel would submit to an international nuclear inspection once comprehensive peace is secured in the Middle East, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview published here Wednesday [9 November].

"We will be ready to submit to an international inspection, work toward the region's denuclearisation and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction as soon as peace accords are signed with the countries of the region," Peres told the French language weekly, *AL AHRAM HEBDO*.

Israel has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and so far refuses to confirm diplomatic and press reports that it possesses nuclear weapons.

An adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Usamah al-Baz, on Monday dismissed any regional security arrangements including Israel before the dismantlement of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the Middle East.

On peace talks with Syria, Peres said recent contacts "invite optimism."

"It is clear that this country has started preparing public opinion for the possibility of direct talks with Israel. Posters praising peace are visible in the streets of Damascus," he added.

Syria said Monday it might resume its stalled direct negotiations with Israel in Washington following a Middle East tour later this month by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Syria has demanded a total Israeli pullout over a few months from the Golan Heights, while Israel has proposed a phased withdrawal over nearly five years without specifying the depth of the pullout from the strategic plateau.

Peres said he was convinced Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would win a majority if a referendum was held in Israel on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized from Syria in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Aide on Meeting With Lebanese Officials, Iraq

MM1611120894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
16 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Samir Nasir: "Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General: We Held Meeting With Lebanese and Requested That Hizballah Influence Be Ended"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said in a lecture he delivered in London yesterday that an important meeting had been held between Israeli and Lebanese officials, during which the Israelis requested that Lebanon eliminate Hizballah's military influence.

Savir did not say where the meeting was held. However, he confirmed that it was not held in Jerusalem or Beirut. He added: "We explained our request to the Lebanese Government, and I believe that it is capable of doing that."

He stressed that Israel's position on Lebanon "involves no deception. We have made several offers to Lebanon, and we will continue to make similar offers for the sake of negotiation. Failure to achieve results is not attributable to Israel."

He said: "Syria is insisting on retaining its influence in Lebanon. The Syrian and Lebanese Governments must define the meaning and scope of this influence. And they must reach a formula explaining the meaning of the two words 'Syrian influence.'"

He stressed the need "to bring to an end the operations launched by Hizballah and the Islamic Jihad from Lebanon, because they are hampering peace."

He added: "We are willing to resume reactivating our negotiations with Lebanon through our negotiations with Syria. We can negotiate with the two states at the same time."

He said that "the issue of the negotiations with Syria is like the play 'Waiting for Godot,' and I hope it will have a happy ending, unlike what happened in the play."

He said, "it is difficult for the Israeli negotiator to understand President Hafiz al-Asad's way of thinking. He is seeking something different from what Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn have obtained. And he prefers to talk to us through the U.S. Administration, as though the Americans are mailmen whose job is to convey his positions." In this context he told a joke about a person "who did not want to talk to his girlfriend directly, so he started to send her letters through the mailman, and she ended up marrying the mailman!"

He added: "President al-Asad should talk with us at the highest levels. That would improve the relationship between the two countries. Then it would be possible to discuss delicate issues, such as security details, economic and regional cooperation, and the main matters. Then it would be possible to change conditions on the ground. Direct negotiations between the Israeli leadership and President al-Asad are the main key to solving the outstanding chronic problems, especially as no one can impose anything on us."

The lecture was attended by Palestinian Ambassador 'Afif Safiyah, Israeli Ambassador Moshe Raviv, and a crowd of figures specializing in Middle Eastern affairs.

The director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry also said that "no change in his country's relations with Iraq will happen with (President) Saddam Husayn."

Savir categorically denied the existence of any secret contacts with Baghdad along the lines of the secret contacts made with the PLO in Oslo. He said that Israel has no problem with the Iraqi people, "but we do not trust Saddam at all."

He said that "there is a difference" between Oslo and the relationship with Iraq. "In Oslo we felt that a real transformation had occurred. We are known for our good information, and we know that he (Saddam) will do it again. The change in our relations with Iraq will not happen with Saddam."

Knesset To Hold 'Urgent' Debate on SLA's Future

TA1511091594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800
GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset will hold an urgent debate on the future of south Lebanon's inhabitants and

the SLA [South Lebanese Army], who are concerned about their future because of a possible agreement among Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.

The Knesset debate will be held in the wake of a radio report on the problem. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that several Knesset members are discussing a bill to ensure the future of south Lebanese residents who have cooperated with Israel. SLA sources told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that there is no truth to the claims that the SLA has disbanded. The sources said that a year ago, when negotiations with Syria became more intense, several soldiers defected but that there have not been any defections since then.

Peres Reacts to 'Arafat's Independence Day Speech

TA1611102494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan on 16 November; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Friedman] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] You may remember the movie about the infamous Dr. Strangelove, a former Nazi scientist whose artificial arm retained the reflex of saluting the fuhrer even after he lived in the United States for years. Yasir 'Arafat resembles him in that he seems unable to cast off the ancient terms, such as the Israeli enemy, and the theory of the phased annihilation of Israel. Is that the man with whom we have made peace?

[Peres] Yes. Look, we are already used to his having a number of set speeches and actions. He used to make these speeches, and he occasionally repeats them. That is true, but it is also a fact that Fatah and the PLO have completely abandoned terror. That is an irrefutable fact. Their bearing the responsibility for ruling Gaza is another irrefutable fact. What do we want? Do we want to remain in Gaza, to manage Gaza, to wait until there are 1.6 million Arabs there?

[Friedman] The problem is that if his desires guide his actions, perhaps his recent behavior is nothing but tactics, which is bound to....

[Peres, interrupting] What do you mean, tactics? He no longer engages in terror. What tactics?

[Friedman] Today he does not, and tomorrow he will.

[Peres] Can you tell what will happen tomorrow? We know about yesterday. We can only speak of the difference between today and yesterday, not between today and tomorrow.

[Dan] He still speaks of the Israeli enemy. The question, Mr. Peres, is how do you expect the Israeli public to....

[Peres, interrupting] First of all, it is not my job to be his advocate. I think he has done a foolish thing, although they have tried to minimize it. His bad habit is apparently alive in some corner. Anyway, I have never described him as the embodiment of all my dreams.

[Dan] The question, Mr. Peres, is how do you expect the Israeli public to trust this peace partner, this Nobel Prize partner of yours? Some day you may perhaps need the Israeli public's trust in 'Arafat to remove settlements in the territories. How will you do it?

[Peres] First of all, I am not proposing that 'Arafat run in the Labor primaries. But what is the alternative? Suppose there is no trust. What should we do? Should we return to Gaza? Should our soldiers fight Arab stone-throwing youths? What do you suggest? After all, we should compare the situation to what it was. I am very determined on this. Winning the elections is not my only purpose in life. My purpose in life is to achieve peace, to take this awful burden off our shoulders—a burden we have carried for 26 years. When we entered the territories, the situation was bad, and when we left, it was even worse. There was no solution. Those who think that Gaza can be cordoned off in the north, south, east, and west and that Gazans can be left to stew in their own juice are wrong. Gaza will become a terror and hatred academy. True, 'Arafat sometimes says aggravating things, but he is the only Palestinian who has decided to compromise, who is managing their life for better and for worse, the only one whose organization has given up terror. So he has not done everything we wanted! We cannot keep expecting him to fit the standards of Labor Party elections. No, he will not run in the Labor elections.

[Dan] His being the only Palestinian is no less scary. You saw he was unable even to convene the Fatah Executive Committee.

[Peres] Having that is also an improvement, because before him there was nothing at all. What do you mean, the only one? He runs the affairs despite criticism, despite the absence of colleagues. So Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] remained in Tunis. So what? What can he do there?

[Friedman] The question, Mr. Peres, is whether 'Arafat represents a majority of the Palestinian people, or perhaps a small minority. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is outside the process, half the Fatah Executive Committee failed to show up, and the Palestinian National Council is unable to convene. What is happening?

[Peres] Excuse me, majorities have to be created. Gaza must be allowed to recover financially. If we continue responding only by oppression, there will naturally be opposition. Our main goal should now be raising the living standard in Gaza and allowing the Gazans to live like human beings. We keep having false expectations, but we should instead make a colossal international

effort to extract Gaza from the jaws of hunger, poverty, and crowded conditions. This is the main issue we should address, instead of asking theoretical questions. [passage omitted]

Shetrit Urges Firm Demands of 'Arafat

TA1211161294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800
GMT 12 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit by 'Adi Talmor; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Talmor] Minister Shetrit, as a representative of the hawkish stands in the government, do you share the opposition's view that the negotiations with the PLO should be suspended until the PLO proves its ability to deal with terror?

[Shetrit] I think there are several alternatives less dramatic than suspending the talks. One of these is to tell the Palestinian side in no uncertain terms that 'Arafat and his associates are running out of time in terms of their ability to rule, to control, and to manage things in a way we can describe as their best efforts [preceding two words in English] to prevent terror.

[Talmor] We have been constantly telling them that, but to no avail. Is it not time to start acting, Professor Shetrit?

[Shetrit] I do not think we said it firmly and sharply, as we should have. Here is an example: At one of the government sessions, one of the participants—whom I will not name—discussed terror as if it were a traffic accident, citing some academic papers. If that is the spirit, perhaps we have not made it sufficiently clear to 'Arafat that he cannot continue to play this dangerous game he seems to be playing.

I do not think we should stop the talks at this stage, a mere four or five days after reaching agreement on launching talks on the next stage of autonomy implementation. This is merely the start of the talks and not the implementation itself. I would not suggest putting off the talks, but I would say that our style of discourse, the way we explain our position should be firm, urgent, and unequivocal. This is not only for Israel's good, because the rational forces in Palestinian society surely realize that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, who started out by perpetrating terrorist operations against us, are sure to turn their activity against them as well, and later they will direct it against 'Arafat himself. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] Let us now briefly address the danger of a cut in U.S. aid. How are you and the Israeli Government preparing for the possibility that the United States may shortly cut aid to Israel?

[Shetrit] I believe that if we do some work based on the assumption that the two major U.S. parties share the

feeling that Israel and the United States are partners who enjoy a friendship and share both values and interests, if we refresh the foundations of that partnership, if we do not take anything for granted, there is a fair chance that despite the change in Congress, we will be able to preserve the level of aid we have been receiving.

[Talmor] You are saying, then, that we should engage in an intensive public relations effort. Thank you very much, Minister Shim'on Shetrit.

[Shetrit] Shalom.

Shahal, Shin Bet Disagree on al-Rujub Security

TA1611094994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505
GMT 16 Nov 94

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal and the heads of Shin Bet have been engaged in an dispute for a few weeks now. The Shin Bet maintains that cooperation with Jibril al-Rujub's Palestinian General Security Services [PGSS] should be expanded, particularly since that organization is mainly preoccupied with enforcing moral standards and with personal and family matters. The Shin Bet believes that cooperation with the PGSS may even help the latter to improve its grip on internal security in the territories in anticipation of the interim arrangement and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories. A stronger PGSS, the Shin Bet says, will also offset the influence of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal is firmly opposed to Jibril al-Rujub's activities in East Jerusalem. He contends that the PGSS personnel will not be contented with enforcing moral standards, and he cites the case in which they kidnapped the Palestinian Television director from a Jerusalem hotel. He also asserts that they operate on the Temple Mount. If permitted to operate freely in East Jerusalem, al-Rujub's personnel will get out of hand. Shahal further contends that, in principle, their activities symbolize a political PLO engagement in Jerusalem. The police minister says that he has advised the prime minister that, as police minister, he will not permit the PGSS to operate in East Jerusalem and that he has instructed Israel Police to detain anyone carrying out policing duties in that area. I do not intend to compromise, Shahal said. We will not permit double standards of law enforcement, and we will not have two arms representing the law—the one arm being Israel Police and another the PGSS, the latter acting as a quasi-police.

The issue was discussed in Attorney General Mikhel Ben-Ya'ir's office a few days ago. It has been learned that the attorney general endorsed the police minister's view and instructed the Shin Bet heads to oppose the PGSS activities in East Jerusalem.

The matter, however, will be resolved in the city itself. Will East Jerusalem's Arab residents continue lodging

complaints only with the PGSS, totally ignoring Israel Police, as they have done in the past few months? They may have no choice, if al-Rujub's personnel leave the city.

Social Welfare Authority Handed Over in Hebron

TA1311124594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Another move towards early empowerment for the Palestinians: At a ceremony today at Civil Administration headquarters in Hebron, Israeli officials handed over to the Palestinian Authority [PA] control over social welfare in the Hebron area. A similar ceremony is to take place on Tuesday [15 November], in which control over welfare will be handed over for the entire West Bank. At that time, Palestinians will also take over responsibility for tourism. Miryam Herschlag reports:

The official ceremony handing over full control of welfare and tourism to the PA is actually set for Tuesday. Today the Hebron District office—one of six in the territories—came under Palestinian control.

Israel says it has been handling the provision of welfare benefits to 8,000 needy Palestinian families, totalling over 42,000 people. Welfare services say Israel operates within a budget of 32,000 shekels a month. That adds up to less than a shekel per month per welfare recipient. Now it's up to the Palestinians to figure out how to divide up that meager pie. In any case, unlike other areas—tax collection, for example—most of those administering welfare care are Palestinians. That means that, for one thing, the files are in Arabic—a major factor in easing the transfer of control. But, as said, their resources are extremely limited.

What remains unclear at this point is what additional sums Israel will hand over. Worker rights activists point out that Israel collected social security payments from thousands of Palestinian workers for years. In fact, they estimate that the Treasury has \$1 billion worth of such collected funds. No answer yet on how, when, and even whether those funds will end up with the PA.

In two weeks, the agreed-upon process of early empowerment is to be completed when Palestinians take over the handling of their health care, direct taxes, and VAT. Israel will pay the November salaries of Palestinian Civil Administration employees in the fields being handed over. But, as of 1 December, the PA will have to come up with the funds to pay those 2,200 workers, and that will clearly be a test for the success of the early empowerment process.

PA Given Responsibility in Judeaea, Samaria

TA1511093394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The military government today handed over to the Palestinian Authority [PA] responsibility for tourism and welfare in Judeaea and Samaria. In

Bethlehem, Ilyas Frayj, the official in charge of tourism in the PA, took responsibility for tourism from the town's military governor. In Ramallah, Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, the head of the Civil Administration, turned over responsibility for welfare to Diyab 'Ayyash, the deputy official in charge of that sphere in the PA. Gen. Zohar said that Israel will continue to help the Palestinians in all fields but noted that if security requires it, Israel will once again intervene in the PA's activities, even in those fields.

Ministers on Isolated Settlement Evacuation, Relocation

TA1311195594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Nov 94

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The attack on Netzarim has highlighted the problem of guaranteeing the security of isolated Jewish settlements in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. A survey conducted by our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen indicates that a majority of cabinet ministers favor the evacuation and relocation of isolated settlements in the territories. Our correspondent has also received the details of a survey conducted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] which shows that unless such steps are taken, the cost of redeployment in the West Bank will reach \$1 billion. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen is here with the details:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] The time for decisions is approaching. The IDF will soon redeploy in the territories and the question is what will happen to dozens of settlements in the West Bank which are either isolated or inaccessible except by driving through Arab towns. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin makes no secret of his feelings.

[Rabin] We will not have two cases like the Gaza Strip settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom, but between 50 and 70.

[Rosen] But what is Rabin thinking about? Does he intend to order the evacuation of these settlements or their relocation in contiguous blocs? This question has yet to be answered. Today, the prime minister prevented a cabinet debate about Netzarim and other settlements in Judeaea and Samaria, and the ministers were forced to vent their opinions through the media. Here are what Ministers Tzur and Sarid had to say.

[Tzur] I most definitely see the possibility of and justification for relocating several settlements.

[Sarid] The redeployment stage will be very complicated and when we have to actually cross the bridge, we may reach the conclusion that some changes, of a more substantive nature than has been the case up till now, may be called for in certain locations.

[Rosen] The positions expressed by Tzur and Sarid basically reflect the prevailing view in the cabinet. A survey we conducted today reveals that 11 ministers would support the evacuation and relocation of small settlements in the West Bank. Five ministers, including Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, are opposed to this.

[Peres] I would not jump to conclusions. I believe there are other ways to provide security.

[Rosen] The IDF, which is responsible for security, has already started discussions on the issue and has formulated plans. We have learned that these plans provide the basis for the IDF's assessment that the military redeployment in the West Bank will cost \$1 billion over the next three years. One million dollars a day. The Construction and Housing Ministry notes that the cost of paving dozens of bypass roads, mainly to the more isolated settlements, will run to \$500 million. Incidentally, the construction minister has already ordered the planning of bypass roads for Ramallah and Tulkarm. Other expenditures include military outposts and bases, fences, lighting, and security patrols. Foreign Minister Peres was surprised when we showed him these figures. He does not believe them.

[Peres] I do not know who did the arithmetic here. I would say these figures have more to do with strategy than with mathematics. I would check the numbers carefully as they seem highly inflated to me.

[Rosen] But money is not the only problem. Senior army officers and political sources I interviewed over the past few days all state unanimously that the IDF's redeployment in the territories cannot be implemented and the settlers' security cannot be guaranteed under the present conditions, in which there are 140 settlements. Another source, who is close to the negotiations with the PLO, raised another point: when the Palestinians receive the details of the IDF's redeployment plan, they will most certainly object vehemently to the measures demanded by the Israelis in order to guarantee the security of these 140 settlements, and the next confrontation seems unavoidable. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the IDF has been vacating outposts in the territories. More than 10 outposts on major roads used by the settlers have been taken down recently. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin on Settlements, Permanent Arrangement Talks

TA1411161494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said he is not satisfied with the Palestinian Authority's [PA] reaction to the terrorist attack at Netzarim junction.

Upon leaving the Labor Party Bureau meeting, Prime Minister Rabin said that according to the Declaration of

Principles, Israel is responsible for the security of Jewish settlements; however, this clearly imposes a heavy burden on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police, and the Border Police. We do not want to uproot settlements in the framework of the interim arrangement, the prime minister said, but the issue will be discussed in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement. The prime minister's remarks were reported by our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

Cabinet Approves Soldiers Doing Service in Police

TA1411152994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
14 Nov 94 p A2

[ITIM Report]

[FBIS Translated Text] At yesterday's weekly session, the cabinet decided that from now on, soldiers doing their regular military service will be able to serve in the Israel Police.

The cabinet decided to amend the Defense Service Law on this issue and authorized the Ministerial Committee on Legislation and Law Enforcement to approve the new draft bill.

The proposed amendment to the Defense Service Law will permit the stationing of regular soldiers on security details in the Israel Police, as is the case now with the Border Police.

The new amendment will also facilitate the legal rectification of several issues, including the service of male and female soldiers in security organizations outside the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], such as the Defense Ministry and the Shin Bet, as well as the participation of military personnel in national endeavors such as teaching and immigrant absorption.

Austrian President, Foreign Minister Continue Visit

Beilin, Mock Disagree on Iran

TA1511155694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
15 Nov 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Text] Disagreements surfaced at yesterday's meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who is visiting Israel together with Austrian President Thomas Klestil.

Beilin called for an embargo on Iran and said heavy economic and political pressure should be employed in order to force Tehran to change its behavior. "I am generally opposed to boycotts," Beilin said, "however, the sanctions worked with South Africa and have recently also forced Iraq to change its position regarding Kuwait. It is hard to boycott Iran and I am aware of the economic interests involved, but it must be done."

Mock said Austria wants to serve as a bridge between Iran and the West, and noted his good relations with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Mock said: "We favor a critical dialogue with Iran. We must not push Iran to the wall. One can criticize the Iranians and attempt to exert influence, but open channels of dialogue with them must be maintained."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Austrian President Thomas Klestil met yesterday at the King David Hotel. Among other things, the two men also discussed the fate of the Israeli POW's and MIA's, over which Iran wields a decisive influence. The Austrian president promised to raise the issue of the POW's and MIA's in all contacts between Austrian and Iranian officials.

As the meeting ended, it was reported that the Austrian Foreign Ministry officials had arrived in Israel with a message from Iran that was more positive than those received in the past. The secretary general of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, who visited Tehran a short time ago, delivered the following message from the part of the Iranians: "we will examine the matter. This is a humanitarian problem and we will see what we can do." Generally, when Austrian Foreign Ministry representatives ask about the Israeli MIA's and POW's, the Iranians reply that they know nothing about these people.

Nevertheless, Yehuda Milo, who is a Foreign Ministry assistant director general in charge of the Europe I Division, yesterday stressed that the Iranian reply did not furnish any additional information about the POW's and MIA's.

Klestil Expresses Regret for Nazi Crimes

AU1511200794 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1830 GMT 15 Nov 94

[Report by Ben Segenreich, including recorded statement by Austrian President Thomas Klestil to the Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem on 15 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Klestil's address to the Israeli Parliament has been regarded as the highlight of the visit from the very beginning. Foreign Minister Peres welcomed the federal president as a declared and real friend of the Jewish people and the state of Israel.

The Israeli press speculated whether Klestil would express regret about Nazi crimes, thus going further than Chancellor Vranitzky did during his visit last year.

[Begin Klestil recording] Many of the worst henchmen in the Nazi dictatorship were Austrians. No word of regret can ever undo the agony of the holocaust. On behalf of the Republic of Austria, I am bowing to the victims in deep respect. We know very well that, for much too long, we neglected those Jewish Austrians who were forced to leave their native land, humiliated and embittered. Today, half a century later, I am standing here in front of you as the representative of a new Austria, an Austria that is different to the one of the past. Shalom to the people of Israel, shalom to all of you. [end recording]

Klestil Addresses Knesset, Ends Visit

TA1611060694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Austrian President Thomas Klestil has wound up his visit to Israel. Addressing a special session of the House yesterday, Klestil said his country must acknowledge that some of the worst Nazi henchmen were Austrians.

[Begin Klestil recording] To my mind, anyone who speaks of Austria and Israel, anyone who really wants to understand the past and what must happen in the future, to fight against the forces of evil, must face up to historical truths, to the entire truth. Today we, Austrians, recognize that the acknowledgment of the full truth was long overdue. We know full well that all too often we have only spoken of Austria as the first state to have lost its freedom and independence to National Socialism, and far too seldom of the fact that many of the worst henchmen in the Nazi dictatorship were Austrians. And no word of apology can ever expunge the agony of the Holocaust. [end recording]

King Husayn Defends Stand on Peace, Jerusalem

JN1511201094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[Speech by King Husayn on 15 November, place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the Arab Hashemite prophet, his family, and all his companions.

Brother citizens: Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. First of all, I thank Almighty God for his guidance, and I thank Almighty God for his innumerable graces. He guided us to make peace, after he guided us to its path and facilitated attaining and realizing peace. He responded to our call in every prayer in which we say: O God keep our heads high that bow only to you. Make us makers and builders of peace, and make it a peace which the generations after us enjoy—a just, comprehensive, and complete peace between your worshipers, the faithful sons of Prophet Abraham, peace be upon him, so that they assist and honor you, and praise you because you granted them peace on the land of prophets and messengers and granted your heavenly messages to your worshipers. Let them safeguard peace and enjoy security and peace, and with them humanity as a whole.

We have entreated God almighty to guide us to the true path. We have continued to seek inspiration from the Koranic verse "Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancor," and also from the Koranic verse "Nor can goodness and evil be equal. Repel evil with what is better: Then will he between whom and thee was hatred become as it were thy friend and intimate!"

Thanks to God's care and help, we have achieved our noble objectives. We beseech God almighty to make paradise our abode, along with the righteous, God-fearing, peace-orientated, and faithful Muslims, in which "no frivolity will they hear therein, nor any taint of ill—only the saying, peace, peace." [Koranic verse]

We also entreat Him to make us people who are willing to vindicate and defend right, not only their own right, but also the right of all people to live in security and stability that will give them the chance to work and build and to demonstrate solidarity and cooperation in all that would promote their interests and prosperity.

I beseech God to make me worthy of the love of my kinfolk and my Jordanian Arab tribe and their confidence. I also beseech Him to render a success my efforts to perform my duty toward the trust I have been entrusted to keep in terms of leading them in manliness and honor. My prayer to God Almighty is as follows: O God, I fear nobody on the globe except you. Likewise, I seek nothing other than the attainment of your satisfaction. So, guide me to the true path. You are the best master and support.

Dear brother citizens: This is your Arab Jordanian homeland, to which a dear objective was realized on the path of the aspired comprehensive and full peace, thanks to God and the clear vision he accorded to us after the experiences which we have had throughout the years of our lives, and after some of us were martyred while defending the nation's right—the homeland which carried an immortal message in patience and dignity throughout this century. Its people learned from the father of the Great Arab Revolt—who is buried in al-Aqsa Mosque—al-Husayn Bin-'Ali Karabala'-style lessons in offering sacrifices, since he left the land of his fathers and forefathers, and with him his Hashemite family after more than 800 years during which this family had a life full of sacrifices for the sake of right and the nation's dignity, and until he, may God have mercy on him, was buried beside the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, the first of the two qiblas and the third holiest mosque while he was defending Palestine and the right of its people. He was not holding al-Aqsa—in which his son King 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn was martyred later on—in a higher place than holy Mecca and Madina—Mecca which he left with his family, emigrating for the sake of God and nation while reading the God's words: We see the turning of thy face (for guidance) to the heavens: Now shall we turn thee to a qibla that shall please thee. Turn then thy face in the direction of the sacred mosque. Wherever ye are, turn your faces in that direction. [Koranic verses]

The sons of this Arab Jordanian homeland have fought for long at the walls of Jerusalem while the nation was only able to provide them with little assistance. Then a time came in which they saw themselves facing the same experience. So they have to be patient and face the challenges alone. We have—since we have the leadership trust among them—to safeguard this homeland from any plotting, betrayal, or weakness.

We have been illuminating the darkness of night by the patience of our one and free Jordanian people. After our dependence on God, we depend on the spirit of challenge of the Jordanians. We suppressed the anger that filled our souls when we were surrounded by ungrateful faces. We healed our injuries silently and were about to reach the point of saying to the nation—among which we used to pray for freedom and unity—let anyone to whom we are owed something declare his debt. He who offers something better than we did to the nation let him furnish the evidence. By God, we have not offered anything from which we wanted a gain or to speak about a favor we made. Even when our children were hungry and when we bade farewell to our sons who were going to martyrdom, we were only seeking God's satisfaction and sealing the holes in the nation's body. We have not been frightened, and we have not weakened even when those who have the deepest vision confused oil with blood, revolution with strife, and faith with apostasy. Our call for freedom, justice, democracy, and the nation's unity continued to be high in order to stop being isolated from civilization and overcome the domination of media and

political demagoguery, and to reach a stage in which the nation is able to formulate a cultural plan that overcomes the injuries of the past, is aware of the present conditions, and draws the features of the future. This plan should ensure the full participation of peoples and their free will. We are aware that the world has changed, and our nation remains far from enforcing its presence that it deserves among the world's nations. The peoples are either hungry, suppressed, or afraid, as if some of those in charge have not read what 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab, may God be pleased with him, said to one of his governors: God has made us rule the people to feed them, provide them with jobs, and dress them. God has created hands to work, and if they do not find work that pleases God, they will seek works that are against God's wish.

And before that they should be aware of what he said: Why do you enslave people although they were born free by their mothers.

Dear brothers, you all know that we are entering a new stage following the conclusion of the peace treaty with Israel. We enter this stage with the same sincerity with which we have defined the outlines of the stage that preceded it. We struggled to preserve Jordan as the homeland of Jordanians and Palestinians, free, and united in spirit and objective. Throughout the many phases of this homeland's generous offering, we placed the nation's interests above the interests of Jordan. We were affected by the results of the negativism of others, their ambiguous stands, their wasting of opportunities, their running after unbridled emotions, and their superficial dealing with the future and with the destiny, not to mention that many of them forgot that we represent the school of the Great Arab Revolt and that we are its advocates. We continue to adopt the same stand, have our independent Jordanian decisionmaking, and defend our rights with honor and manliness. We fought for the sake of the nation. We participated in its battles without asking any other question than the question of whether we will become martyrs or score victory. The Palestinian plains and mountains are familiar with our deeds. Jerusalem's walls, and the Golan Heights have also tested us at the most difficult stages.

When the changes with which you are familiar have taken place over the past years, we found that we had to wage the battle for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Armed with the spirit of national dignity, we proceeded on the road to peace, and with a high national spirit, characterized by loyalty, maturity, and determination the Jordanians negotiated in Madrid and Washington and in this region until we attained the peace treaty between us and Israel. The people have had their say on this peace, and it was that of the majority. It is a peace through which Jordan regained its complete sovereignty over its land that was occupied, a peace that restored to it its water rights from one of the parties involved in the water issue. Jordan hopes and works within the framework of the attainment of comprehensive peace to regain all its rights to water.

All that could be said has been said about the peace process and the treaty until the people had their say in wake of a unique constitutional dialogue. Here, the opposing minority must respect the opinion of the majority and abide by it with the exception of what the constitution, the law, and the national charter allowed in the field of the freedom of opinion until the conclusion of the treaty. Their freedom will always be respected within these limitations.

But it is neither reasonable nor acceptable in anyway whatsoever for anybody to go to extremes in exercising intellectual terrorism against the general public in the name of the freedom of expression. In the same vein, it is neither reasonable nor acceptable for anybody to deny the majority the right to make decisions, which must eventually be respected by all.

In this regard, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have expressed their views frankly and clearly, and who have been on the side of their homeland and its future generations, particularly since people have become accustomed to choosing the easiest and most direct road to countering the remnants and various forms of intellectual terrorism; the fabrications promoted against religion, creed, and goodness; and the tendency to deny others the right to life as well as their sufferings. All peoples have orphans and bereaved persons, just as we have. We beseech God Almighty to help us face up to all these circumstances until we reach a promising and bright future. It is high time that we identified our responsibilities and set our priorities before holding others responsible for all the plights that have befallen our nation. It is high time that we dealt with life and the challenges that it poses with rationality, courage, and a sense of responsibility.

I want to emphasize that Islam can never be against peace, can never be with darkness against light, and can never be with death against life. Therefore and henceforth, the pulpits of God's prophet, peace be upon him, and the pulpits of those who hold the reins of power, cannot be places for irresponsible expression in the name of Islam, while Islam is innocent of all terrorism, domination, charges of apostasy, disdain, and confiscation of the people's right to listen to the best words on the affairs of their religion and life from these pulpits.

Many of the expressions used to paint us as being less than confident in ourselves and our culture and the legitimacy and reality we represent. Some even portray peace as posing a risk to our nation and civilization. How can that be when we are a nation that has been seasoned by experiences of history and we are a country that can take pride in its stands and is aware of the movement of history and the depth of the culture of the nation and its capacity for shouldering the burdens of peace.

Free Jordanians: We have made our positions clear over all the decades of the conflict. At the Rabat summit in 1974, when the Arab leaders put on the table the formula of the sole legitimate representative, despite the fact that

we recognized the PLO in 1964 and I opened the first session of the Palestine National Council in 1965 in Jerusalem, we told them: If the Arab brothers at this highest level conference think that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan does not have the legitimacy of speaking in the name of the Palestinians who live in its midst and carry its citizenship and who have grown part of its institutions and if they think that Jordan has no right to defend the rights of these people or shoulder the responsibility of working to regain their usurped land and end occupation and remove aggression, and if they think that this legitimate status is confined to the PLO alone, I, in the name of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, hold them responsible for their opinion and decision and all the consequences of this decision. I also told them that I regard this as exempting us of our present political responsibilities and that we will leave judgment of such a decision, if it was made, to history.

Nevertheless, we assumed the responsibility, proceeding from a pan-Arab perspective, and in keeping with a history full of sacrifice and martyrdom for the sake of the Arab nation and its primary issue. We viewed and continue to view this position as a commitment to a firm brotherhood and a special, distinguished relationship between the children of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples on the two banks of the river. We also view that position as a fulfillment of the trust toward the nation's holy places in Jerusalem, the place to which our great grandfather, the Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, performed his night journey and from which he ascended to heaven. Our role in maintaining and safeguarding the holy places has been acknowledged by those who fought us, but has been denied by ungrateful persons. We stand by the Palestinians to attain their rights to their territory and national soil along the path of peace for which they have opted.

The West Bank and Jerusalem, which were salvaged by the men of the Arab Legion under 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, were a trust which we defended and worked to save for their people, who opted for a unity between the two banks of the River Jordan. We did not bargain over an inch of their territory or any of their rights to it, until its people chose their own way, supported by all Arabs and Muslims, beginning with the Rabat summit of 1974, and ending with the Oslo agreement with the Government of Israel. That agreement signaled their departure from under the Jordanian umbrella, which brought them to the table of negotiation.

Insisting on treating the subject of the holy places with the highest sense of responsibility, we call and work for the establishment of a dialogue between God's slaves, the followers of the divine religions. Such a dialogue should be preceded by a dialogue among the Islamic schools of thought to arrive at unified visions leading to brotherly relations among the believers, as God wanted when He willed that Jerusalem be a cherished place by all believers. This dialogue should result in a situation where we will respect one another, that will preserve the

rights of all the believers, each with what concerns him. As for custodianship over Jerusalem, it will only be for God Almighty.

And this does not undermine the Palestinians' claim to Jerusalem. As a matter of fact, such a thing will promote the peace of the believers, the slaves of God, and ensure the continuation of this peace. From this premise, we will continue to assume our responsibilities toward the nation's holy shrines in Jerusalem until a definitive comprehensive solution is attained that will restore the rights to their owners in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

As for the feelings I harbor toward the holy shrines in Jerusalem and Hebron, they are as eternal as the positions of Husayn Bin-'Ali, and as undying as the chaste blood of 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, which was shed at the gates of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. This is how we have been in our positions toward the nation and Palestine. We will continue to uphold the nation's freedom, its independent decisionmaking, dialogue among Arabs, and justice for the nation's peoples. Our appeals could fall on deaf ears. Nonetheless, we will be judged as people who have kept the trust of promoting the message. As for those who fail to differentiate between what is good and what is bad before it is too late, they will take the blame for wasting the nation's time, which would have been used to promote awareness and construction; to liberate the nation from the tyranny of intellectual rigidity, the rule of political feudalism, regardless of the various forms it may take, the horrors of ignorance, illness, backwardness, poverty, and unemployment; and to herald a state of sweeping acculturation with all that this entails in terms of freedoms, institutions, laws, science, and modernism.

O dear brothers and kinfolk: I am speaking to you while we are standing at the threshold of a great historical junction in terms of events and transformations. In this speech of mine, I am getting close to history. I am doing so because I am afraid that history might repeat itself despite the fact that we are acting in broad daylight and in the sight of the entire world community.

Some of the literature documenting the contemporary Arab political history has demonstrated selectivity, distortion, as well as a misrepresentation of many of our positions. Our decisions have been interpreted outside their proper context. This distortion has harmed one of the purest forms of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples' struggle. By this, I mean the decision to unite the two banks in 1950. In this regard, I addressed the Arab leaders attending the Arab summit of Algiers of 1988, saying: This decision was a victory for the current of Arab unity at the time. Then, I wondered whether new generations are well aware of the facts. I asked: How many of them are aware that the Jordanian Arab Army saved the largest area of what was left of Palestine, including Arab Jerusalem, in the 1948 war? How many

of them are aware that the representatives of the Palestinian people then were the ones who took the lead in demanding the establishment of unity.

Brothers, kinfolk, and Arab tribe, we enter a new phase of our history at a time the entire world experiences the labor pains resulting from the difficult transformations. We also have to face the requirements of the new stage, confident in the ability of all the Jordanians to adjust to a state of affairs they have been denied so far, and to approach with maturity and responsibility the new opportunities in the field of labor, construction, and creativity. We should also complete the operation of comprehensive reform in its minutest details and free ourselves from all forms of hesitation, and cocoonist calls and bigotry, and all the manifestations of instilling an atmosphere of disaster and doom. This Jordanian people, with all their sectors, are an alert and active people. They are the ones who established on this part of the nation's homeland a modern state under the harshest circumstances, and fiercely and obstinately defended it and its system. Jordan enters peace as it had entered war, relinquishing no right, abandoning no victim, continuing with its bountiful offering, and not giving up its democratic option and its unique course of tolerance, solidarity, and respect for human rights. I might go beyond all this to say that the coming stage is a difficult battle where only the patient and those capable of building and learning will establish their presence in this world. By doing so, Jordan will emerge from the labor pains of these transformations stronger, more resolute, and more determined.

Thus, Jordan remains as the world has known it, its status by far exceeding the size of its beloved lot of land. Its Arab identity, and its tolerant spirit will remain a pure image and an example to those who see good and drink from its sources. As for those who ignorantly or enviously turn their faces and distort the image and the example, we cannot but call that they receive guidance and knowledge before they turn into firewood in the furnace of history whose fire is never put out, whose embers remain incandescent, and whose movement never stops.

We have chosen our course and road, after the others chose theirs. We abided by our constitution and charter. We have in front of us a stage where we have to review our national plans in all fields to achieve one objective; the realization of the Jordanian model of the modern Shura-based state.

We are on the threshold of a new century, in which we do not want to be outside the movement of history or to be satellites to anybody. Rather, we want to follow a straight path. We want this homeland to serve as the Arab nation's living metropolis of culture to free it of estrangement, hesitation, and inertia. We still deeply believe, as ever, that the unity of the nation's Arab, Islamic, and progressive culture, with its high level of creativity, analytical vision, and methodology, constitutes the basis

of the comprehensive pan-Arab awakening in this age, an awakening which provides the nation with a real opportunity to life, freedom, justice, and equality, and with a fortified culture which should be able to confidently deal with other cultures. This is because this culture is a source of illumination, emancipation, and creativity and realizes what to take and what to leave. It distinguishes between the sterile and the fertile and between the racist and the human.

Dear Jordanian people: I would like to take the opportunity of my address to you, which I wanted to be clear within the framework of our one family, to inform you that I and my brother, Prince Hasan, the apple of my eye, and my trusted crown prince agree on the need to carry out carefully studied work to give the opportunity to the future Hashemite generations after us to continue on the road of the fathers and grandfathers, the road which I, together with my family, opted for when we chose Prince Hasan to assume his responsibilities, which he shouldered with extreme trustworthiness and competence. We also agree that after us, the course of Islamic pledge of allegiance [al-bay'ah al-islamiyah] will be followed. Thus, the grandchildren of Husayn Bin-'Ali will choose among themselves and pledge allegiance to whomever they expect to be able to carry the trust and fulfill the mission among the coming generations.

O free Jordanians: You have shouldered the responsibility toward your homeland and nation in accordance with the duty and sense of honor. You have struggled so that Jordan remains dignified and immortal in spite of all sick dreams that those who have them wanted this country to disappear and to be in a situation in which it will not be able to get any of its rights in the future. However, Jordan which is great by its people and its heroic Armed Forces remained far from complaining, remained faithful to its principles, defending—on behalf of some of the nation's sons—the rights of the nation that they failed to defend. No reward do I ask of you for this except the love of those near of kin. [Koranic verse] Its sons who participated in the arduous negotiations continued to defend its rights even until we, praise be to God, restored our full rights in land, water, and borders.

Here, I want to say that all borders of our Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are defended by the men of the Arab Army, the Jordanian security forces, and the concerned organs. When the barbed wires and mine fields were removed, this heralded the restoration of Jordan's full rights over its sites and the practicing of its sovereignty without anyone having to do anything with it. This gives them, and the people behind them, the responsibility of keeping peace and meeting its requirements in text and spirit. In all circumstances, they should not allow our land to be a springboard for any quarter that is opposed to peace or a theater for any of their practices.

Brother citizens: I deeply thank you for your noble feelings on the occasion of the birthday of your brother, son, and your King Husayn who is proud of belonging to

you. After depending on almighty and wise God, he depends on your patience and hands. He works with you for the esteem and glory of the homeland. I also thank you for supporting and blessing our efforts for the higher interests of your homeland and its independent decision while it is entering the battle for peace honorably, and coming out of it honorably.

Thanks and greetings to all those who assumed the responsibility of the arduous negotiations, and who, using logic, arguments, and documents defended the rights of their homeland. Thanks also to all our constitutional institutions, and the government for the efforts they exerted, the ideas they offered, and the followup efforts they undertook. Thanks to our armed forces, and to all our security departments who raise the banner of the homeland and who embody our pride worldwide—the guards of our kingdom so that evil will not dare approach it and those who through their great steadfastness have taught the nation and the world that the army of dignity and justice cannot be defeated.

While we proceed on the road to peace, I reiterate my eagerness to do all that will result in the good of the people at present and in the future. By this, I will be performing my duty to my people. I will continue to perform this duty as long as I live, and I will participate with you in setting the features of the course for Jordan and for its people. Together, we will pursue our endeavors to bring about a new resurgence for our nation on the road to freedom, shura, democracy, and justice. We will continue to work for the attainment of integration and solidarity among the nation's sons under the canopy of the respect for man's dignity and his right to freedom, pluralism, security, and peace.

We ask God to assist us in doing what satisfies Him, to guide our steps on the road to prosperity, to protect the homeland, and to unite the nation. God is the one Who answers our prayers. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

New Invitation to 'Arafat Reportedly Not Issued

MM1511164694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Amman Welcomes 'Arafat, but King Husayn Offered No Invitation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—A reliable Jordanian source said yesterday that King Husayn did not issue any new invitation to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jordan. The source told AL-HAYAH that 'Arafat phoned King Husayn last week to express his wish to visit Jordan, and that the Jordanian monarch welcomed him, indicating that the door has always been open to such visits.

Replying to statements made by officials in the Palestinian Authority, namely that 'Arafat has accepted an invitation from the king to visit Jordan, the source said that the Jordanian monarch "offered no new invitation

during the recent telephone conversation between him and the Palestinian president." And that Jordan "has always expressed its willingness to receive 'Arafat and any Arab leader wishing to visit Jordan." But "no invitation was offered in the recent communication."

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority, said yesterday that 'Arafat had accepted an invitation to visit Jordan and that preparations were being made for the visit. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Congratulates al-Asad on Anniversary

JN1611094594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, in which he congratulated him in his name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the Corrective Movement's anniversary.

His majesty wished his excellency continued good health and happiness and the Syrian Arab people further progress and prosperity.

Joint Follow-Up Committee With Israel Reviews Issues

TA1511125194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint Israeli-Jordanian follow-up committee on the implementation of the peace accord between the two countries today decided on working procedures for the future. The committee reviewed the issues it plans to deal with in order to institutionalize the peace relations between Israel and Jordan, and it decided to convene for its first working session some time next week. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the members met at the Jordanian side of the Shaykh Husayn Bridge. The Israeli team is headed by Elyaqim Rubinstein and the Jordanian side by (Hani al-Maliki).

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 15 November adds: "In Elat, Israel and Jordan have begun talks on transportation. Transport, customs, and tourism officials from both countries are taking part. The negotiations are expected to continue for the next six months, alternating in Elat and al-'Aqabah. Meanwhile, the first cooperative event between Elat and al-'Aqabah takes place this weekend: a formula one speedboat race with competitors from twelve countries. Elat also plans to celebrate King Husayn's birthday on Thursday [17 November] with a fireworks display and laser show."]

Joint Security Committee With Israel Meets

JN1511150794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint Jordanian-Israeli security committee convened at the Dead Sea Hotel today to

devise a mechanism for the implementation of Articles 3 and 4 pertaining to security and borders as spelled out by the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Major General Tahsin Shurdum and Maj. Gen. 'Uzi Dayan led the Jordanian and Israeli delegations respectively.

Maj. Gen. Shurdum told our radio what went on at the meeting:

[Begin Shurdum recording] The border and security committee met today to devise a mechanism to fulfill the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Articles 3 and 4 address borders and security. We are working on a timetable involving some military sectors in the south and the north to implement the treaty provisions, including the removal of barbed wire and mines and taking delivery of the land that has been returned to Jordanian sovereignty under the peace treaty. Considerable efforts are being made to finish the business in hand within three months, the time limit set by the treaty. We will begin in earnest as of next week, on Wednesday, when field experts are due to meet. We are working on this timetable today. We hope to revert to the original borders that take account of Jordanian sovereignty. We hope the Jordan Valley Authority and other bodies will ensure the necessary security in Wadi al-'Arabah in the interest of the development of the region. We will shortly work on delineating sea borders. This will require the services of experts from the Royal Geographical Center and the General Command of the Armed Forces, along with other bodies. Once these international borders are marked in the Red Sea, water floats and supports will be put in place. [end recording]

Shurdum: Syria, Lebanon Serious About Peace

TA1011173094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Nov 94

[Report by Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] General Tahsin Shurdum, commander of Jordanian Army Intelligence, told us today that most of the Jordanian public supports the peace with Israel. In his opinion Syria and Lebanon are serious in their intentions to attain peace with Israel. The Jordanian general commented on the inauguration of the Shaykh Husayn Bridge at the Bet She'an Valley, saying it constitutes a step toward implementing bilateral peace:

[Begin Shurdum recording, in English] I feel good, and this is one of the steps forward to continue on our peace cooperation and implementing peace in this region. When peace is going to have lot of fruit for results, people have to cooperate to develop this area and this valley, to make it a valley of peace. That is how I feel, and I think the majority of the Jordanian people feel this way. We support his majesty's decision on peace, and we hope everything will go good between our two nations in the future. [end recording]

[Segal] Regarding the Syrian issue, Gen. Shurdum evaded a direct answer, which perhaps demonstrates the cool relations between Amman and Damascus:

[Begin recording, in English] [Shurdum] Everybody is serious in the region, and we hope everybody succeeds in his peace efforts in the region.

[Segal] Do you think that Syria is going to make peace with Israel like Jordan did?

[Shurdum] I think they are. I am not the one who should speak for Syria at all, but I wish our brothers in Syria good luck and to come ahead in their peace talks. [end recording]

Al-Rifa'i Reportedly To Be Named Prime Minister

JN1011091094 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 Nov 94 p 1

[“Exclusive” report]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that King Husayn of Jordan plans to charge former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i with forming a new Jordanian Government when the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is finally ratified and goes into effect.

Informed sources have said the Jordanian monarch is looking forward to a new phase which needs improved relations, particularly with Syria and the Gulf States. Al-Rifa'i has close ties with the Syrian leadership and did not make any statements in support of the Iraqi regime during the Gulf crisis.

[Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic on 10 November publishes on page 5 the following short report: “Certain shrewd observers have commented on al-Rifa'i's close watch of, and great interest in the deliberations [over the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in the Jordanian Senate] by saying that he is the man of the next stage who will entrench the treaty and mend fences with Syria. Will al-Rifa'i be the next prime minister?”]

Government Lifts Economic Boycott of Israel

NC1611105794 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Nov 16 (AFP)—Jordan has lifted its economic boycott of Israel and drawn up new customs legislation following their peace treaty, a senior official said Wednesday [16 November].

The end to Jordan's observance of the four-decade Arab League boycott of Israel was a “logical conclusion” of the peace deal signed on October 26, said the official who refused to be named.

Arab League secretary general 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid said Monday that the boycott, declared in 1951, would remain in force until Israel complied with UN resolutions and gave up occupied Syrian and Lebanese land.

U.S. Embassy Said Displeased by Israeli Embassy Site

JN1411091994 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 15 Nov 94 p 28

[FBIS Translated Text] A ranking official at the U.S. Embassy in Amman has expressed displeasure with the

news that the Israeli Embassy in Amman will be near the premises of the U.S. Embassy in 'Abdun.

This followed reports that the Israeli Government has bought a large parcel of land and a huge building opposite the U.S. Embassy to use it as the premises for the Israeli Embassy. The Israeli Government failed to find any citizen willing to lease a building or an apartment to use as the premises for its embassy in Amman, so it decided to buy a building.

The U.S. official said: Setting up the Israeli Embassy in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy will bring us a more undesirable security burden. This will also reduce the number of those who frequent the embassy, which recently succeeded in drawing many citizens to its cultural, economic, press, and artistic activities.

Sly people in Amman ask: Why does the Israeli Government insist on having its embassy near the U.S. Embassy? Does it want to spy on the Americans' activities in Jordan and their contacts with the U.S. State Department? [sentence as published]

Delivery of U.S. Arms Expected 'Within Weeks'

MM0911124794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Airlift To Move Advanced Weapons and Equipment to Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Reliable Jordanian sources revealed yesterday that the United States will set up an "airlift" to move advanced weapons and military equipment to Jordan from its military stockpile in Western Europe within weeks.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the United States has decided to ship to Jordan advanced weapons and military equipment, including warplanes and modern tanks, worth \$1.2 billion as part of an agreement reached with the United States following the signing of the "Washington declaration" on 25 July.

Washington pledged to provide military aid to Jordan to help to "modernize" and reorganize its Armed Forces in the light of the steps taken by Jordan and Israel to achieve a peaceful settlement between them. The sources confirmed that that most of the weapons Jordan is going to receive will be shipped from Germany, where U.S. forces have been stationed since World War II. [passage omitted]

Writer Alleges Plans To Destabilize Country

JN1511131694 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Nov 94 pp 10-11

[Report by chief editor Walid Abu-Zahr]

[FBIS Translated Text] An old friend of mine who works for certain departments currently extremely concerned

with what is taking place in the Middle East has telephoned me. I was really surprised when I heard his voice on Tuesday [8 November] morning, which was a holiday in France marking "All Saints Day." Given my familiarity with French traditions, I was dead sure that my friend, like most workers and employees, must have been on a long vacation in the countryside. For here, whenever Tuesday is observed as a holiday, all go on vacation from Friday evening through Wednesday.

But my surprise over my friend's presence in Paris increased when he, of his own volition, revealed to me the reasons behind his extraordinary preoccupation by way of asking: What do you think of the serious meeting held in Cyprus? Do you not think that it has serious implications for the situation in Jordan, and also for the peace treaty signed between Jordan and Israel?

I do acknowledge that my friend's questions came as a surprise to me. I was taken aback. Initially, I did not understand his questions. I was confused. I spontaneously retorted that he must have meant the recent speech delivered by the Jordan's King Husayn in which he addressed an unmistakably strongly worded warning to Islamists and opponents of the treaty.

But, my friend said: No. I do not mean the speech delivered by King Husayn. I am talking about information received regarding secret meetings held in Cyprus three days ago, in which rejectionist Palestinian groups and radical Islamist currents took part in order to draft a confrontation plan in reply to the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Despite the seriousness of this news, I maintained my composure and told my friend: Your story today is reminiscent of the story of a Lebanese merchant who borrowed a large amount of money from his Jewish neighbor. Because the merchant had to pay back the money the next morning, he spent the entire night chain-smoking and roaming his room like a crazy man, thinking of how to solve this problem before the breaking of the dawn, but in vain. Dawn was about to break, but no solution was in sight. Likewise, he could not sleep. His wife shouted at him, wondering what could be bothering him. He answered her, saying: How am I to sleep when I do not know what will happen tomorrow if I fail to pay back my debts to my neighbor. Then, his wife quickly found a solution. She addressed her husband, saying: Go to your neighbor immediately, and tell him frankly that you will not pay him back tomorrow. The merchant had no choice but to act on his wife's advice. So, he informed his neighbor that he would not pay him the next day, and then had a good night's sleep. As for the panicky Jewish neighbor, now it was he who was sleepless.

I continued my conversation with my friend, saying: I was making preparations to spend the holiday with my family outside Paris. But now that you have telephoned me, bringing this news to me, my plans have been scuttled.

My friend hung up the phone and went to sleep. As for me, I contacted AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI correspondents in Arab and foreign capitals. I also held a series of contacts with very informed sources on the issue. I continued this effort until Saturday, when this magazine's edition was due for publication. Meanwhile, relevant information continued to pour into our magazine's premises. As for us, we continued our efforts to analyze the information received, and to make the relevant conclusions. All the information collected has confirmed the veracity and accuracy of the news leaked to me by my French friend.

It was discovered that a very serious meeting had actually been held in complete secrecy in a tourist resort near Larnaca known for its luxurious villas and chalets, which are owned by multinational bourgeois, including Jordanian figures who agreed to host at one of their luxurious houses the delegations that arrived that night to attend the meeting.

The conferees numbered at least eight, some of whom came on direct flights from Jordan to represent a radical current that is close to the hawks of the Islamic Action Front. Among the conferees were also two leaders who came from Lebanon, an envoy of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), another who represented a radical Islamic current close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah. Abu-Ayman [not further identified] was one of the conferees who came to the meeting from Peshawar to speak on behalf of the "Jordanian Afghans." Others arrived from European and Middle Eastern capitals. There were also representatives of the Islamic Liberation Party, as well as radical Jordanian fundamentalists known for their Iranian connections.

The information AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has obtained confirms that the venue of the meeting was decided at the last moment when Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front] refused to host the conference in Khartoum at this delicate phase, during which the international siege of Sudan is tightening. At present, Sudan is the focus of attention of international intelligence services. They want to know more about its sponsorship of terrorism. The reports received also indicate that al-Turabi has begun to reconsider his calculations and plans with regard to leading international Islamism. In his current moves, al-Turabi has taken into consideration the current international anti-terrorism drive, which is especially designed to nurture the peace process. He has also taken into account the fact that the number of states that are willing to sponsor terrorism and to provide cover for terrorist operations is decreasing. Moreover, he has acknowledged the fact that all indications are that terrorist operations will be the carried out by a "minority", and that they will not enjoy popular support.

As for Iran, which many of the brothers meeting in Cyprus have frequently visited—not to mention the fact

that some of them received training at the Emam 'Ali University in Tehran—, it has chosen to confine its involvement in the affair to a piece of "advice" it offered to the hardline current within the Jordanian Islamic movement. Iran blessed the idea of convening the meeting. Nonetheless, it argued that the meeting should be held in a third country because of considerations related to its ties with Jordan, and also due to regional and international calculations pending a clarification of the picture.

Despite all this, the major topic discussed by the Larnaca conferees revolved around "A Multifaceted Plan for Confrontation" between Islamists and the Jordanian regime to counter the treaty signed in Wadi al-'Arabah on 26 October. This plan provides for escalation to the largest extent possible, and also for torpedoing the treaty by large-scale terrorist operations inside and outside Jordan.

At the outset of the conference, the representative of the hardline current in the Jordanian Islamic movement reiterated the need to thwart the treaty. He noted the popular support enjoyed by the Islamic movement in Jordan, emphasizing that "our silence would rob us of our political leverage. If we refrain from confrontation, our forces will be fragmented, and we will experience dissent that could jeopardize the future of Islamists in Jordan. This might spell the end to our pioneering experience in the Arab world."

This Islamist added: We are required to make a response, and to step up our moves. Otherwise, the fruits of the treaty will wipe us out. Then, the government would argue that it is compelled to strike at us on the pretext of our financing Hamas. It would also argue that the provisions of the treaty compel it to strike at the Hamas Movement in Jordan. Consequently, we would find ourselves powerless people with our wings clipped overnight. You are well aware that Rabin has demanded that the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan be rendered toothless to preclude any future Hamas operations.

This Muslim Brotherhood figure went on to say: We must act soon. Otherwise, the government will strike first. The question posed concerns how we should act. You have heard the strongly worded threats made by [King] Husayn. Moreover, you are well aware that the Jordanian authorities have taken all necessary precautions, and that they are ready for a bone-breaking battle. We must discuss a way and a plan to thwart the treaty and destabilize the peace without triggering a reaction or a civil war.

Then, the PFLP-GC representative interrupted, saying: We must not allow for a repeat of the black September episode. We must avert riots that could turn the conflict into a war between the Palestinians and Jordanians.

Another Jordanian who introduced himself as a member of "Muhammad's Army" answered by saying: The majority of the Palestinians support King Husayn. I

believe that the climate of the seventies is no longer there. We must underscore jihad, and be guided by our Islamic thought. Anyhow, you know that we have an adequate number of ethnic Jordanians who are willing to obey our orders, not to mention the secret cells and camps we have managed to keep intact in spite of the campaigns and trials that have targeted "Muhammad's Army", the "Islamic Mobilization" Organization, and "Jordanian Afghans" thanks to our ties with Hamas. As for the "Iranian Revolution", it enables us to act without undermining the situation of the Palestinians.

Abu-'Ayman, the Jordanian Afghan, said: We are aware of the difficulties of carrying out military acts at this point in time, especially since everyone is heading for capitulation. Even some of our allies are bringing pressure to bear on us to restrict our moves and curb our jihad. Sudanese officials have asked us to bide our time. I would also like to reveal to you that the Sanaa officials have addressed strongly worded warnings to our brothers in Yemen. I do not rule out the possibility that [Yemeni President] 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih might betray us to placate [King] Husayn. The issue at stake is not easy; but it has never been so, and yet we have managed to cope. We are upholding a cause. Hence, it will not be difficult for us to engage in armed action even if Jordan's neighbors are opposed to us, and if friendly countries continue to extend qualified support for us. Let us agree on the plan, and leave the implementation to us.

Then, the Jordanian Islamist interjected, saying: Let us begin by attacking Jordanian embassies abroad. Such operations are easy to carry out, given the connections of our mujahidin and youths. Moreover, such operations would cause a big fuss, rock the regime, and drive a message to all that we are dissatisfied and capable of turning the table upside down. I am afraid that the king's moves against us inside Jordan could be violent. More importantly, we might lose our popularity, as well as our leverage, which we have nurtured and built. This could also bring about dissent within the ranks of the Islamic movement in Jordan.

At that point, the representative of the extremist Palestinian organization that is close to Hamas and Hizballah commented, saying: This is not sufficient. We must deal heavy and painful blows to undermine the results of the treaty. We must learn from the experiences of Hamas

and Hizballah in their war against Jews. In my opinion, the best thing to do is to place car bombs near the border crossings between Jordan and Israel. We have several heroic suicide bombers who are willing to face martyrdom.

He added: Besides, I propose that our plan initially focus on carrying out group assassinations aimed at hunting down all Jews who would visit Amman. I would like to ask the representative of true Muslims in Jordan to seek, upon his return home, to mobilize underground elements, and use them to carry out such missions. We must follow in the footsteps of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions in occupied Palestine. We must encourage Islamist shaykhs to issue a fatwa [Islamic legal ruling] sanctioning the shedding of Jews' blood wherever they are seen. Such a ruling could be promoted by cassettes that expose the treaty and the dangers that it poses. The cassettes can also be used to mobilize people against the treaty. We are willing to contribute to the implementation of this plan.

The meeting ended by drafting a detailed plan of action that incorporated all the proposals set forth. The conferees then split into two working teams: A political team assigned the task of preparing the grounds and climate, and a military team assigned the task of drafting scenarios and details for the implementation of terrorist operations. Agreement was also reached on quickly holding a meeting in an Arab state after making intensive contacts with extremist Islamist and Palestinian factions, as well as states known for sponsoring and financing them and extending logistical and military support for them to herald the implementation of the plan.

Nonetheless, the Cyprus conferees were unaware that the provisions of their agreement and the minute details of their deliberations had reached major Arab and Western intelligence services before they left Larnaka airport, especially since the bureaus of these services in the Middle East and Western Europe have been placed on maximum alert since the Dizengoff operation carried out in Tel Aviv. Since then, these bureaus have been intensifying coordination and exchanging information.

As for which party will win this war, which has become open, I would like to say that this is a question to which the next few days and weeks will provide an answer.

Al-Hirawi Threatens To Expel Palestinians*NC1311204894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 13 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 13 Nov (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has threatened to expel all Palestinian refugees from Lebanese territories if the refugee problem is solved at the expense of Lebanon.

In an interview to be published by the Lebanese paper AL-SAFIR tomorrow, al-Hirawi said that if the refugee committee of the multilateral negotiations in which Lebanon is not participating decides to draw up a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem at Lebanon's expense, then he will ask the Palestinians to leave Lebanon. He added: Let the Arab countries bear all this responsibility.

He said: Lebanon is overpopulated and the right jobs do not exist for its citizens. Lebanon is only allowing its Palestinian brothers to stay for humanitarian reasons.

Al-Hirawi stressed that not a single Lebanese agrees to the resettlement [of Palestinians]. He said that Yasir 'Arafat has to give them citizenship and then they will leave Lebanon.

Buwayz Receives Message From Christopher*NC1211080794 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Nov 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Charge de'Affaires in Lebanon Ron Schlicher has handed Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Contents of the message were not disclosed. Schlicher refused to comment but a diplomatic source said the aim of Schlicher's meeting with Buwayz was to discuss the general situation on the eve of Christopher's tour of the region.

Press Views Republican Victory in U.S.*NC1511130394*

[FBIS Editorial Report] The Lebanese newspapers on 10 and 11 November publish various comments on the results of the recent U.S. mid-term elections and their possible impact on the Middle East peace process.

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic on 10 November publishes on page 1 an 800-word editorial signed by Talal Salman, the newspaper's chief editor, in which he argues that when it comes to American policy, the Arabs are always the losers, irrespective of who dominates the U.S. Congress. He writes: "It [Congress] is effectively 'the parliament of the world,' but the Arabs will remain out of it, whether the majority of its members are Republicans or Democrats. If the Democrats win, the Arabs lose, and if the Republicans win, the Arabs lose."

Salman believes that in every case the Israelis stand to win. He states: "As for Israel, the opposite is true: It is always the winner, regardless of which of the American

parties loses the elections. Indeed Israel is at the core of defeat for the loser and a factor in victory for the winner." Salman says Israel will use the differences between the White House and Congress to serve its own interests. He suggests: "Perhaps Israel is now living the happiest moments of its life, because it is the side more able to benefit from the discrepancy that will govern American political life for at least the next two years, during which the Presidency will be in the hands of a Democrat, while the Republicans will dominate Congress (both the Senate and the House of Representatives) and the state governorships." He adds: "This is an ideal situation for the blackmail that Israel masters and in which it is skilled. It takes the most from the President and forces Congress to give more. When Congress gives more, it goes back to the president to ask for even more."

In another 500-word article by columnist Fu'ad Hutayt in the same issue of AL-SAFIR, the writer describes the election results as "a political hurricane" and notes their significance locally and internationally. The writer contends that concentrating on foreign policy is now "the only way" to support President Clinton's chance of a second term in office: "Clinton will need to score diplomatic victories that bear his name. This—despite Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talk of 'strong continuity'—will essentially lead to foreign policy changes that may reflect positively on some regional hotbeds of tension." Noting that Clinton devoted four days of his time to visiting the region, the writer concludes: "This leads you to believe that this region will be on his list of priorities."

Accepting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assertion that the election results will change nothing in terms of U.S. support for Israel, the writer argues: "But Washington certainly realizes that what has already been achieved in the region is nothing more than stations on the road to a settlement, and that peace is still far away, perhaps needing more time than is available to Clinton. This requires American efforts and intervention to be intensified and reorganized in a way that suits the role of a real sponsor."

Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic on 10 November publishes on its front page an 800-word editorial signed by its Chief Editor Rafiq Khuri in which he agrees that foreign policy is the "only field" now left to President Clinton. The results of the elections, he says, provide evidence that Clinton has failed to introduce the change on the basis of which he was elected. "Clinton knew how to win the Presidency two years ago but he did not know how to rule," he says. Suggesting that cooperation with the Republicans in Congress will be "extremely difficult," Khuri says: "If the door to domestic effort, which is Clinton's original program, is closed, then the only door that may be open is foreign policy. Perhaps a change in the administration teams in charge of domestic and foreign affairs is an indispensable option, but what is important is a change in policy."

In another editorial appearing on the front page of AL-ANWAR on 11 November, Khuri says Congress influences foreign policy in many ways, including through its financial power. He says he believes that Israel will play on the contradictions between Congress and the President and maintains that the peace process in the Middle East needs a strong American President.

An 800-word article by leading columnist Sahar Ba'asiri on page 1 of AL-NAHAR on 10 November takes a somewhat different view, arguing that there will be no change in American foreign policy. Ba'asiri first maintains that the election result "does not necessarily reflect support for the Republicans and their policies as much as it shows a rejection of the Democrats' policies." Seeing Americans' desire for change, she writes: "But this change does not mean a new foreign policy, certainly not in the Middle East, although some inclinations or perhaps some details will change, because the Presidency and Congress are now two different colors. What happened is an internal affair relating to the daily life of ordinary Americans." She adds: "Foreign policy is another issue that has never really been subject to the whims of the Republicans or the Democrats." She goes on: "The foreign policy pursued by Clinton is nothing but a continuation of the policy drafted by Republican President George Bush." Ba'asiri further explains: "There will be change in domestic policies but it is doubtful that this will also apply to foreign policy, especially in the Middle East, because the constant principles of the American policy toward the Arabs and Israel are not changed by a ruler." Acknowledging the Clinton administration's commitment toward Israel, she says: "The Republicans have never been less committed to the strategic alliance with Israel or to its qualitative superiority over the Arabs."

An approximately 1,200-word article by Sarkis Na'um appearing on page 2 of AL-NAHAR on 11 November cites two theories on how the American election results may affect the Middle East peace process. The writer contends: "Some people in Lebanon and abroad" believe the results will harm the peace process, especially Syria's role in it. These people, the writer adds, base their judgment on two reasons: The first is a possible reshuffle in Clinton's administration, one in which Secretary of State Warren Christopher may be removed. These people note that Christopher has accompanied the process from the beginning. The second reason is that President Clinton may find himself compelled to please Israel to win the support of the Jewish lobby, especially in Congress. "It is natural for this to be at the expense of the Arabs, Syria in particular," the writer suggests.

Na'um says some "diplomatic sources" believe the results will affect not the settlement process itself, but its date, adding that they say that Clinton may find himself forced to delay an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict until 1996 so that he can use the achievement, while still fresh, to support his chances of another term in office.

The second theory, says the writer, is that Clinton cannot ignore or delay the peace settlement, because such a move would probably abort the peace process, eliminate the successes so far, and help the growth of Islamic fundamentalism. The writer concludes by posing a question and attempting to answer it: "Which of the two theories is more correct? This cannot be determined now but it seems that those who are involved in the peace process, Arabs and non-Arabs, are inclined toward the second theory. This inclination may be based on knowledge and awareness or may proceed only from wishful thinking."

'Dramatic Changes' in U.S. Policy Said Unlikely

MM1511122194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 94 p 15

[Article by Joseph Samahah: "Continuation of Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anyone anywhere in the world can show no interest in the United States. But it would be a grave mistake, since the United States is interested in him. It is the state most balanced in running international affairs, and it has the strongest presence at the economic, cultural, and informational levels. And if it has always boasted about its possession of a model to export, it—regardless of its right to "export the model"—could be the first political player in certain regions and the main influential factor in formulating the destinies of homelands and peoples.

This is why elections cannot pass without making a sound, especially when they disrupt the balances. Perhaps this is what has prompted some people to say—jokingly—that what is required is not to limit participation in U.S. elections to the Americans!

The Republican Party's overwhelming victory and its control of the legislative has produced a new factor in the U.S. internal situation. And it will be "enjoyable" to watch the coexistence between a weak president and a parliamentary majority that includes among its ranks a number of "heavyweights" and more than one figure expected to run for the presidency in two years. Will this new factor affect Washington's foreign policy?

If this aspect falls within the powers of the president first—and it does—there are two views in this connection: One says that Bill Clinton will feel that the chances of winning a new term have decreased substantially and that he will not be lucky unless he succeeds in implementing economic and social projects in which the voter is interested. On that basis, and proceeding from his main concern, that is giving priority to domestic conditions, he will try to insist on his "agenda," offering possible concessions and seeking to portray Congress as the one hampering the executive's work. Some people say that the White House will find itself compelled to ease the elements of confrontation with the new majority. And that it will discover that it is easier to

increase the interest in foreign policy, while giving priority to economic relations, in order to avoid harassment.

Many observers believe the second possibility is the most likely one, adding that foreign policy will not witness any dramatic change. Why?

First, because that is the rule in Western democracies and the object of national consensus. In this connection the French-African summit—the last one to be held during Francois Mitterrand's term—offers a bright example of "continuity," to the point that no one noticed the effects of the current president's "socialism" compared with the "right-wing policy" of his predecessors. So it is not reckless to say that changing the majority in Congress will not affect the main axes of Washington's policy. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that what Clinton has done so far can be considered an extension to what George Bush did. Proof of this is that he has—often—won the support of the two major parties. Furthermore, it can be firmly said that the difference between the program of candidate Bill Clinton and his practice as a president is much greater than the difference between this practice and the recent Republican president's orientation.

The Republicans will occupy important positions at the head of a number of committees. And through these posts they will be able to introduce limited amendments to the U.S. orientation in a number of important files. However, it is clear that this intervention will mainly take the form of participation in making this policy, not the form of wrangling or proposing alternatives of a different nature. If this observation can be applied throughout the world, the Middle East is no different. Clinton is still reaping what Bush planted, and he still has a lot to do in this connection.

Suspect in Germany Bombing Sentenced for Forgery

NC1511131094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The criminal court in the south has sentenced Palestinian Yasir al-Sharidi to 18-months imprisonment for forging his passport. In the middle of this year, the court acquitted him of killing Libyan oppositionist Mustafa al-'Ashiq and of bombing La Belle night club in Germany in 1983.

'Resistance' Forces Attack SLA Post

NC1611093194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Retaliating against the repeated Israeli aggression, the Resistance men attacked the agent militia's [South Lebanese Army, SLA] position in Tallat Sujud with machine-guns and rockets at 0200 today. The SLA radio admitted the attack. Security sources in Hasbaya reported that Lieutenant Colonel Nabih Abu-Rafi', the SLA commander of the eastern sector, has resigned from his post because he intends to travel abroad. The sources added that Captain Mansur Badawi will replace him. The Israeli occupation forces are continuing their shelling of the hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah and Jabal al-Rafi'. The occupation forces shelled the vicinity of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Wadi al-Suluqi, and the old quarter of al-Qantarah at 0500 today. The shelling continued intermittently for 30 minutes.

Al-Hirawi, al-Hariri, Birri Discuss Budget Issues

NC1511205094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A tripartite meeting was held this evening at the Presidential Palace in B'abada of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. The meeting, which lasted over 2 hours, addressed the issue of the budget and separating the 1995 budget from the ten-year development plan.

After the meeting, neither Birri nor al-Hariri wanted to make a statement.

Talas Addresses Women Soldiers on Peace Talks

JN1211173894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a celebration was held today at the Women's Military College to graduate a new class of students.

Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister deputized for the president. He delivered a speech, at the start of which he conveyed to the graduates leader al-Asad's greetings and best wishes of success in their military life and in implementing the national and pan-Arab duties they will be assigned in the ranks of our valiant forces. [passage omitted]

Talas also spoke about the regional peace process and the efforts made to establish a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The commander in chief's representative noted the obstacles placed by Israel, as well as Israel's attempts to evade international law in order to avoid the prerequisites of a just and comprehensive peace through its attempts to underestimate the importance of the visit made by U.S. President Bill Clinton to the region, the most important part of which was the historic Damascus summit.

He said the summit clearly showed Syria's principled position on the peace process. That position, he added, was embodied in the final communique delivered by the president in which he said: I have stressed to President Clinton Syria's commitment to the peace process and its serious quest to achieve a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option.

Lt. Gen. Talas, the commander in chief's representative, added: Our position is firm and principled. It represents the aspirations of the masses of our nation and all peace-loving forces in the world, represented in the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace that would return rights to their owners.

Lt. Gen. Talas stressed that Syria is committed to the just and comprehensive peace in return for Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 borders. [passage omitted]

'Circles' View al-Asad-Clinton 27 Oct Summit

JN1311073194

[FBIS Editorial Report] Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 November 1994 carries on its front pages summaries of what it describes as Arab and foreign media reaction to the 27 October summit

between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton. AL-THAWRAH introduces each edition's summary with an attributory passage citing "Arab and international political and media circles." Two other Syrian papers, AL-BA'TH and TISHRIN, also publish, without introductory passages, summaries whose content very closely parallels those in AL-THAWRAH.

Introducing the 2 November summary, AL-THAWRAH says:

"The Syrian-U.S. summit last Thursday between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton continues to attract the interest of Arab and international political and media circles, which have affirmed that the summit has defined the general framework of how the peace process should be and has drawn the future features of a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

"These circles say Syria adheres to a just and comprehensive solution, which preserves the rights, dignity, and interests of all parties and which permits the peoples of the region to enjoy security and stability with full confidence and reassurance. These circles point out that the Syrian view of the solution proceeds from the clear and specific premise that if the solution is not just and balanced and returns the land and the rights to their owners, it will not lead to real peace, but will be like a temporary armistice that will collapse at the first test it encounters.

"These circles say the United States has understood the real Syrian stand and has announced with full frankness and clarity that comprehensive peace in the region cannot be achieved without Syria, especially after it has become clear that the incomplete partial agreements concluded on the other tracks cannot bring peace and stability, but only cause more problems and complications.

"The political circles point out that Syria reiterated at the recent summit its position calling for full peace for full withdrawal. Therefore, if Israel really wants to achieve a major breakthrough in the peace process, it should declare its frank commitment to accepting the principle of complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and abandon its proposals that call for partial and phased withdrawals. If it does that, it would be possible to be optimistic about the approach of the moment for peace."

"These circles say the ball is now in the Israeli court and that Rabin's government must choose between the path of right and justice, which leads to real peace, and the path of maneuvering and procrastination, which leads to a waste of time and whose result will be losing the available opportunity and holding the peace process hostage to stalemated inaction."

This introductory passage is followed by a 200-word review of comments on the summit by the Lebanese paper AL-DIYAR and a New Jersey paper ITTIDAL [MODERATION].

The introductory passage in AL-THAWRAH on 3 November reads as follows:

"Arab and international political and media circles have expressed their great appreciation of Syria's positive and constructive stand on the peace process. They say this stand is based on clear, firm principles and is aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the rights and interests of everyone and enables the region to rid itself of all vestiges of previous wars and conflicts.

"The circles add that Syria reaffirmed its commitment to the peace process during the recent summit in Damascus between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton by reiterating its full readiness to cooperate with every effort to reactivate the peace process. It announced with full clarity that it wants full peace for full withdrawal and that it is ready to abide by all the objective conditions required by peace.

"These circles explain that pushing the peace process forward now depends on Israel's stand and the extent of its response to the bases and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. If Israel submits to the logic of right and justice and accepts the condition of withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, the path would then be open and paved for setting up the pillars of peace. But if Israel continues to maintain its present stands, it is very unlikely that the peace process will make a serious start."

This introductory passage is followed by 400-word review of comments on the summit by Lebanese Shiite leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah, Lebanese deputy Dr. Amin al-Hafiz, the Russian ambassador in Damascus, and an American, "Bill Martini", identified by the newspaper as a New Jersey legislator.

The introductory passage in AL-THAWRAH on 4 November reads as follows:

"The Damascus summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton continues to be the subject of wide interest in Arab and international political and media circles, which have affirmed that peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the Syrian gateway and that the region will not know the taste of security and stability except after the achievement of the required success on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

"These circles add that Syria was as clear as possible in reaffirming its commitment to the peace process and in showing its readiness to cooperate seriously with any effort made to reactivate the peace process. They point out that the matter now depends on the extent of Israel's response to the requirements of peace and its readiness

to accept the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon in order to achieve a serious start in the political process.

"The political circles explain that the conclusions reached from the Israeli statements which followed the summit show clearly that the Rabin government does not want to provide the appropriate atmosphere for the success of the U.S. efforts and that its whole concern is to fabricate stands of procrastination and evasion of the main peace demands, especially with regard to withdrawal.

"The circles conclude that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's disavowal of Resolution 425, which provides for unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon, is in itself a definite proof of Israel's lack of desire for a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. It also shows disregard for the U.S. initiative based on Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace.

"The political circles also point out that Rabin's disavowal of the aforementioned resolution means that Israel is trying to circumvent this initiative, torpedo its bases, and replace it with new alternatives enabling Israel to pass incomplete, partial solutions in harmony with its long-term objectives and plans.

"These circles affirm that Israel's disregard for the UN resolutions cannot be a factor helping to attain peace. In fact, such a stand could create new obstacles and hurdles leading to the dissipation of the peace hopes and holding the peace process hostage to stalemated inaction.

"These circles conclude that the road to peace will not be open unless Israel retreats from its obstinate stands and announces its full abidance by all the conditions and requirements of peace, led by the condition of full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. If it does not do that, it will be difficult for the peace process to achieve any real progress."

This introductory passage is followed by a 250-word review of comments on the summit and Israel's attitude by Lebanese deputies Talal al-Mur'abi, Khalil Makkawi, Walid Junblatt and the Cairo paper AL-WAFD.

The introductory passage in AL-THAWRAH on 5 November reads as follows:

"Arab and international political and media circles have affirmed that Syria's desire for the success of the peace process stems from its concern about regaining its land and rights and its desire to create the appropriate factors which will enable the region to enjoy real security and stability away from the threats of wars and their tragedies.

"The circles add that Syria was the first to give more chances to the possibilities of peace. It cooperated with every effort by the international community to push the peace process forward. It also announced on several

occasions that it will continue its earnest endeavor to achieve peace despite all the difficulties and obstacles created by Israel.

"These circles explain that Syria's eagerness for just and honorable peace does not need any proof, because were it not for Syria's patience and consideration vis-a-vis Israel's disputations; and were it not for the full commitment it showed to all the objective requirements of peace, the peace process would be obsolete and forgotten and would not have got this far."

Thus introductory passage is followed by a 400-word review of comments by Russian academic Aleksandr Vavilov on peace as "Syria's strategic choice" and by comments from the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN and the Lebanese magazine AL-SAYYAD on the al-Asad-Clinton summit.

The introductory passage in AL-THAWRAH on 6 November reads as follows:

"Arab political and media circles and parties highly commend the courageous pan-Arab stands of President Hafiz al-Asad and say that Syria, under his leadership, has become a formidable regional force with much weight and influence on everything that concerns the region.

"The circles add that Syria refuses to compromise any of its rights. It will not concede a single inch of its territory. In its endeavor for peace, Syria seeks just and firm peace that restores all the land and rights to their legitimate owners and that does not allow Israel to retain any part of the occupied Arab territories.

"These circles say that Syria's stands are clear and frank and are based on the provisions and resolutions approved by international legitimacy regarding a just and comprehensive settlement. Therefore, Syria, which is concerned about the principles of right and justice, will not accept any solution which could detract from Arab rights and legitimate just demands, especially their right to regain all their occupied territory."

This introductory passage is followed by a 300-word review of comments by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, from the Jordanian Arab Islamic Democratic Movement, the Lebanese magazine AL-KIFAH, and Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk.

'Positive Aspects' of U.S.-Syrian Summit Viewed

MM1511141294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham: "Positive Aspects of Clinton-al-Asad Summit: Withdrawal Schedule and Its Coincidence With Normalization"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York—Contacts with U.S. and Middle Eastern sources have revealed that President Hafiz al-Asad presented to President Bill Clinton during their recent meeting two initiatives on

two main issues of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, namely: the timetable for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the linkage or coincidence between withdrawal and normalization.

The sources said that al-Asad "expressed understanding of the overall idea of the timetable and the timetable framework, and a date for initiating natural [tabi'iyah] relations—which reflects willingness to begin normalization in doses once the first phase of the withdrawal has been completed."

The same sources pointed to a discussion of a new element on the Syrian-Israeli track represented in the possibility of "adding military elements to the two negotiating teams, the Israeli and the Syrian, in Washington to discuss security aspects." The sources gave the impression that military officials might be included in the two teams when the bilateral negotiations resume next month as expected.

As is known, Syria hinted at its willingness to resume the negotiations if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returns to Damascus with positive positions from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who will visit Washington soon and meet with Clinton on 21 November.

The sources regarded "the Syrian willingness to accept coincidence, linkage, and a phased process between the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and normalization steps as a new indication." They also regarded al-Asad's agreement for the Israeli withdrawal to take more than a year as "a concession," albeit insufficient in Israel's view. This is in the knowledge that Israel wants the withdrawal to be completed over a five-year period, while Syria wants it to be completed within a year. Other sources say that reports of a 16-month period are "inaccurate."

U.S. and Middle Eastern sources pointed to the importance of Syria's acceptance of the "integrated agreement" method submitted by Israel. U.S. sources have said that the "framework" for discussing the details has been defined, and the Syrian-Israeli negotiations have moved—through the United States—"from focusing on the principles to focusing on the details. And that the gap has begun to narrow." However, they added: "We still have a long road ahead of us, and there is no need to set a period of time" as a final date for the completion of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

Other well-informed sources have pointed out that no fundamental progress has occurred in the Lebanese element on the agenda of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. And that discussing details of the unofficial coincidence between the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the Syrian military withdrawal from Lebanon, or a tangible reduction of the Syrian military presence, is included in the negotiations, in addition to the issue of disarming Hizballah, that is in the framework of the integrated and

comprehensive "agreement" which will include Syria and Lebanon in the final phase of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Israel Accused of Aborting U.S. Peace Efforts

JN1511124894 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 15 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has accused Israel of starting a new disinformation campaign against Syria, claiming that Syria's answers on peace are not enough.

In a political analysis published today, the paper says that Israel has exploited U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's delay of his visit to the region by attributing it to Syria's position on the peace process.

The paper adds that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' allegations that the visit was delayed due to Syria's slow response to the requirements of the peace process, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements to the same effect, indicate that the leaders of Israel have returned to their old method of casting doubts on Syria's position in an attempt to hold it responsible for the stumbling peace process.

The paper says the leaders of Israel exploited the latest elections in the United States, which led to Republican majority in the Congress and Senate, and the Clinton administration's general review of its domestic policy, to cast doubts on Syria's peaceful intentions.

TISHRIN says that Syria has announced, through President Hafiz al-Asad during Clinton's visit to Damascus, that it is ready to respond to all the objective requirements of peace. The U.S. President warmly welcomed this clear attitude and said that he felt a genuine Syrian desire to make peace and that President al-Asad is serious about advancing the peace process. He also talked about progress in his talks with President al-Asad.

The paper adds: Following the U.S. President's arrival in Israel, many Israeli statements were made casting doubt on the usefulness of this progress in an exposed attempt to contain the outcome of the Syrian-U.S. summit.

The paper reiterates that Israel is seeking to distort facts and events. It is the party which is obstructing the peace process and avoiding the requirements of a just peace. It still refuses to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon and hinders the resumption of the U.S. secretary's Middle East efforts by its prevaricating. The paper notes that Syria advocates peace because it believes in peace and in its sacredness and importance. Syria will not, however, relinquish its territory or the Lebanese territory or fall into the trap of partial solutions as others did.

The paper asks: Why does Israel not publicly announce that it is ready to fully withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon and thus give a strong push to the

peace process? It adds that Israel alone is obstructing the peace process and seeking to abort the U.S. efforts.

Israel Said Responsible for 'Existing Gap'

JN1011161894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Those who follow developments in the region must clearly see that the existing gap between Syrian and Israeli positions is not new. The gap has been created by Israel's adherence to occupation and by its violation of international resolutions, while Syria has always declared its commitment to international resolutions and voiced its desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions. Syria considers this a strategic option, as President Hafiz al-Asad has declared.

Syria has spared no effort to achieve this goal. Nor has it stopped its endeavors to reach the desired peace. Syria has always called for and worked to establish peace, and it will continue to do so until peace is achieved—peace which can enable everybody in the region to enjoy security, dignity, and stability.

Meanwhile, Israel has been threatening security and stability over the past decades by committing aggression against Arab territories, adhering to its occupation, and refusing to comply with UN resolutions and international legitimacy. Since Israel's handling of the peace process has lost its momentum, serious action is needed to achieve the desired results. Moreover, Israel continues to mark time by trying to deceive, procrastinate, paralyze efforts, and adopt tough positions that do not respond to the requirements of peace, including the end of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories and the return of the usurped rights to their rightful owners.

Israel has made many attempts to achieve its goals. Israeli officials played the game of issuing conflicting statements and have done all they can to strike unilateral deals, which lack objective bases and which constitute a serious obstacle to establishing a true, just, and comprehensive peace that will guarantee security and stability in the region.

Therefore, this gap must exist as long as Israel adheres to its previous positions, which have only seen outward changes that have not affected the essence of its policy, and while Syria sees peace as a strategic option.

The recent developments in the region and the positive atmosphere created by the Damascus summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton should prompt everyone to work for the desired true peace. This, however, requires Israel to change its policy to achieve true peace, which the region desires and needs, which enjoys international consensus, which will end the state of tension and war, and which will restore security and stability.

Ba'th, Palestinian Alliance Rally Criticizes 'Arafat

JN1211094094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—The Palestine Branch Command of the Palestinian Organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party held a speech rally this evening on the 24th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, launched by President Hafiz al-Asad. The rally was held at the Khan al-Shih secondary school and was attended by comrade Sami Qandil, Mahmud al-Salti, and Mu'in Hamid, members of the Regional Command of the Palestine Organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Ahmad al-Qadi, secretary of the Ba'th Party's Palestine Branch; Ratib Shihab, secretary of the Ba'th Party's al-Yarmuk Branch; 'Adil Maghari, alias Abu-Tariq, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council; Muhammad Abu-Zarad, director general of the General Commission of Arab Palestinian Refugees; several representatives of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces; senior officers of the Palestine Liberation Army; several representatives of popular and professional Palestinian organizations; the comrade members of the Ba'th Party's Palestine Branch and al-Yarmuk Branch; and a crowd of citizens.

The rally began by observing a minute of silence for the soul of the beloved of the homeland and the nation, Staff Major Paratrooper Engineer Basil al-Asad, and the martyrs of the Arab nation.

Comrade Ahmad al-Qadi then delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in which he said the blessed Corrective Movement, under the wise historic leadership of comrade struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, has made Arab Syria a vanguard of the Arab nation and the world. He noted that Syria has a distinguished status, that its word is respected, and that its decisions are firm.

He further said that Syria has made tremendous sacrifices to shape the Palestinian national character and support the factions of the Palestinian revolution. In doing so, Syria has been eager to preserve and restore Arab rights and adhere to national and pan-Arab principles.

Comrade al-Qadi criticized the policy of unilateral action and departure from Arab coordination and solidarity, as well as pursuing a course of black diplomacy that has led to the Oslo accord and other unilateral agreements with Israel.

He praised Syria's firm national and pan-Arab positions, saying Damascus has accepted just and comprehensive peace that restores Arab rights and that Syria is a tough nation in war and peace. There can be no peace without the return of territory and there can be no peace without Syria.

Concluding his speech, comrade al-Qadi hailed the great shining symbol in the skies of the Arab nation, leader

struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He also greeted our kinsmen in Palestine, occupied Golan, southern Lebanon, and the righteous martyrs.

Abu-Tariq then delivered a speech on behalf of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, in which he stressed that Arab Syria, under the leadership of struggler Hafiz al-Asad, is the Arabs' impregnable fortress and the pan-Arab haven of Arab strugglers who adhere to the nation's rights, struggle principles, values, and honorable history.

He added: Syria is the best example of adherence to one's principles and stands. He criticized the Gaza-Jericho agreement and Yasir 'Arafat who signed this agreement, saying that the Palestinian people reject surrender and adhere to the National Charter and their struggle principles, revolution, and liberation.

Concluding his speech, Abu-Tariq hailed the great leader of the Corrective Movement, the children of the intifadah, and our steadfast people in the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

Afterward, Mrs. Samirah Jibril, member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian Women Federation, delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian popular organizations, in which she said President Hafiz al-Asad provides a refuge, safe haven, and roomy house for all those who resist. She said: In this difficult time, we have been left with a spark of hope in Damascus, another in Beirut, and a third coming from the intifadah, supported by our people and those who reject the wave of humiliation and sleeping in the lap of the enemy.

Palestinian poet Muhammad Tamim then recited a nationalist poem on this cherished occasion.

Paper: 'Suppression' by 'Arafat Cannot Achieve Peace

JN1411074094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary headlined "Peace Can be Achieved by Establishing Right," TISHRIN says: Despite the fact that the limited self-rule authority has arrested over 100 Palestinian citizens, the Israeli prime minister urges 'Arafat to make more arrests and carry out further acts of suppression. It is clear that the Israeli prime minister wants the Palestinian police to liquidate the resistance men, even if this leads to infighting among the same people.

The paper says: Peace in the occupied Arab territories and the entire region cannot be achieved through suppression, tyranny, and oppression, but by applying the principles of the just and comprehensive solution, which preserve for Palestinian and Arabs their rights, returns their territory, and protect their dignity.

TISHRIN adds: No one, not even in Israel itself, is unaware of the fact that the limited self-rule agreements have not provided to the Palestinians their most basic rights and have not returned any of their territory. Occupation continues and oppression escalates.

The paper stresses that the just and comprehensive peace that ends occupation, returns the territory to its owners, and establishes the supremacy of international law and the UN principles and conventions is that which can achieve security and stability. Syria

sticks to the just and comprehensive peace and strongly refuses to be pushed into partial settlements.

The paper concludes: What Israel calls painful concession is deception incarnate. Israel is not relinquishing territory because the Golan Heights are Syrian territory and has been since time immemorial and south Lebanon is an indivisible part of that fraternal country. By returning the Golan Heights and south Lebanon, Israel is only submitting to the will of the world community, its principles, and resolutions.

Afghanistan

Key Buildings Destroyed During Clashes in Qandahar

LD1511175694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation is reported to be tense in Qandahar.

According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, following several days of clashes in Qandahar, the provincial capital's administrative offices, airport, and radio and television building have fallen.

The report adds: In the course of the clashes, the radio and television center received extensive damage.

Security Commission Issues Weapons Permits

LD1511181394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This is an announcement of the security commission of Kabul city. Taking into account law and order in the city, the security commission of Kabul city has authorized the issuance of new weapons permits to a number of senior officials. Those esteemed people who are included this category are asked to send by Thursday, 16 November, their photograph, their weapon's serial number and their full identification to the security commission of Kabul city. Otherwise, they will lose the right to obtain a weapons permit.

Iran

'Agents' Said Testing Security of World Airports

NC1611095394 Paris AFP in English 0757 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 16 (AFP)—Iranian agents are sending suitcases through airport security checks around the world to seek out weak spots for possible bombings, an Israeli magazine said Wednesday [16 November].

THE JERUSALEM REPORT quoted Western intelligence sources as fearing, "The Iranians are trying to find security loopholes. That will enable them and terror groups they sponsor to place explosive devices on airplanes or to transport explosives and other illicit material without being intercepted."

The bi-monthly publication said some suitcases bearing fictitious addresses have been checked in from Tehran for Europe and America. But others have been handed in from Britain to Thailand and Venezuela.

"While the passenger travels with the case on the first leg of the flight, he or she does not appear for the transfer flight—the idea being to ascertain whether the airline involved will carry the unaccompanied suitcase."

The operation run by Iranian security agents was only recently discovered and has led to what the Report described as "almost unprecedented cooperation by American and European intelligence agencies."

The sources were worried that Tehran may stage an attack similar to the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

Intelligence sources admitted numerous weaknesses in international airline safety:

- airports fail to implement regulations
- airlines slash security to save money
- operators fail to carry out all procedures because of sheer volume of passengers.

Majles Approves Second Development Plan

LD1511162994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In today's open session of the Islamic Majles, the bill of the country's second [five-year] economic, social and cultural development plan was passed by the deputies after its second reading.

Our correspondent reports: After 10 days and approximately 50 hours of discussions and debate within eight open sessions held each day in mornings and afternoons, the deputies of the Islamic Majles approved the bill of the second economic, social and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The bill of the development plan which consists of one single article and 103 notes was approved.

In accordance of the single article of this development plan, the government is allowed to use the sources of the national budget anticipated in the [development] planning law, to allocate the following sums up to the ceiling determined:

for 1374 [begins 21 March 1995] 36.394 trillion rials;
for 1375 [begins 21 March 1996] 41.296 trillion rials;
for 1376 [begins 21 March 1997] 46.733 trillion rials;
for 1377 [begins 21 March 1998] 52.938 trillion rials;
for 1378 [begins 21 March 1999] 60.825 trillion rials.

The total expenditure of the national budget in the period of the second development plan is 238.186 trillion rials. The government is duty bound to prepare the necessary grounds in such a way that the implementation of the investment targets, policies, and draft proposals should be put into practice during the years of the [second development] plan.

President's Adviser Views Future Presidency

NC1311120294 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Nov 94 p 2

[Editorial: "A Word With the President's Legal Adviser"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday 30 October 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, legal adviser to the esteemed president, in an interview with a correspondent from the newly published IRAN NEWS, discussed the country's future Presidency, saying: "If there can be changes in the Constitution, Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the worthiest person to undertake this responsibility." He also added: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani has the special characteristics of both Amir Kabir and Modarres. He is very similar to Amir Kabir because of the attention he pays to the country's industrial development and to Modarres because of the attention he pays to freedom." The president's legal adviser added: "If no changes are made in the Constitution, then Dr. Hasan Ruhani is the next best candidate for the future Presidency."

We must make a few points about the comments by the president's legal adviser.

A. What Mohajerani has said about the outstanding and rare personality of Hashemi-Rafsanjani is something the entire noble Iranian nation agrees with. The late imam, may his soul be sanctified, and the esteemed leader of the revolution also stated it. His comments on the most suitable person to replace Hashemi-Rafsanjani constitute his own personal view, which we will not discuss in this article. But that part of Mohajerani's comments that should be discussed are his remarks about the need to make changes in the Constitution—a comment that is surprising in view of the position Mohajerani enjoys as the president's legal adviser.

B. A constitution—not only in the Islamic Republic of Iran, but in all ruling systems—is a "national legacy" and the basis used for a country's policies. It sets the criteria for the activities of governments and is the major yardstick by which "shoulds" and "should nots" are measured. It is the "finishing line" of conflicts and of differences in views and tastes. This is why it is so highly revered.

As for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Constitution enjoys a sanctity much higher than constitutions in other systems, because it has been compiled by outstanding religious scholars and selected Islamic pundits accepted by the nation. And once the religious leader approved it, the nation too cast its vote in favor of it and thus chose the basis on which the system's activities and policies would be based. Thus, it is surprising how easily the esteemed vice president speaks of changes in this law as if he is discussing an in-house circular on changing some parts of the country's Constitution!

Speaking of changes in the Constitution, even if considering only minor changes, means speaking about a change in the system's political identity. Undoubtedly, the esteemed vice president agrees how dangerous such an expression of views can be, especially when they are made by a responsible state official such as he.

Probably to defend his comments, he may refer to "Article 177" of the Constitution, which speaks of the

possibility of revising the Constitution or of the possibility for amendments and changes. But, according to "Article 177," a proposal to revise the Constitution can only be made by the leader of the revolution.

C. In trying to explain his recent comments, the esteemed vice president might refer to changes in the content of the Constitution a few years ago at the proposal of the late imam, may his soul be sanctified, following which an association of experts was formed for the task. His eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, was a learned scholar and the guardian of the system and the nation. After his eminence the imam approved the Constitution, the people—who considered it their duty to obey him and justly so—did vote in favor, thus legalizing this law on the basis of their religious and Islamic beliefs. The same applies today. Therefore it was and is natural for the supreme leader to think that some changes or amendments to some of the articles in the Constitution are vitally important, hence Article 177 in the Constitution, which states that only the esteemed leader of the revolution has the right to propose a revision of the Constitution. If this were not the case, then every once in a while an individual or individuals would speak about changes or amendments to the Constitution, even if they had good intentions. This would harm the objectivity of the Constitution, which could no longer be regarded as a "national legacy" and the major yardstick for policies of the Islamic system. Naturally no changes can be made to the Constitution on the basis of such an expression of views and of tastes. But the issue is that rash comments should not be made.

D. The two-term Presidency that the vice president thinks should change was compiled, like all the other principles in the Constitution, after a series of persistent examinations and discussions and after much farsighted thinking was given to its expediency. This was the principle on which the amendments were made. Therefore, the esteemed vice president should be asked: What radical changes have taken place in the criteria that were used by those who compiled this article in the Constitution to make him believe a revision or change in this article is necessary? For example, in the revision of the Constitution a few years ago, one of the most important principles and an amendment deemed necessary was the need to prevent intervention in the executive system of the country, something that had been creating many problems. To revise the Constitution, the executive power was vested in one person—the president. The other amendments too were similar in nature. And now, the logical question is: What problems have arisen as far as the term of the Presidency is concerned that make the esteemed vice president believe that a revision or amendment is necessary? Does he believe that in the previous revision, in addition to the revision proposed by the supreme leader, the amendments concerned "themes," not "criteria?"

E. As referred to above, there cannot be the least doubt about the rare competence and commitment of dear

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. No one doubts this and it was also confirmed by his eminence the imam and by the esteemed leader of the revolution that he is one of the backbones of the Islamic revolution. And if his Presidency in the next term was not contrary to the Constitution, again, like before, the alert and brave nation of Islamic Iran would vote for this strong backbone of the revolution. But first, such issues were considered by the farsighted expert compilers of the Constitution, experts whose views were always endorsed by the great leaders of the revolution. Those who compiled this article worked on the basis of strong reasoning as to why the Presidency should be limited to two terms.

Second, outstanding personalities such as Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani are among the strong backbones of the Islamic revolution and the impact of their duties in any capacity may always go beyond any positions. Limiting their vast presence and their impact is not realistic. This applies particularly to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. For example, during the imposed war, although he was the Majles speaker, his extraordinary power and rare personality saw him play a key and determining role in managing the sacred defense of the country. And many of the sensitive and fateful missions were assigned to him by his eminence the imam. Naturally the same will apply today. Thus, the law's preventing him from continuing in office as president cannot and should not be considered as a step that will deprive the nation of the competence of this strong backbone.

The position of the president in the Islamic system of Iran is not a position that is separate from the other parts of the system, especially when this system runs under the sagacious leadership of the guardian of the Muslims' cause.

Papers on Presidency, Amendments

LD1511174394 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1440 GMT 15 Nov 94*

[From the radio's "Press Review"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to comments made by the vice president for legal and parliamentary affairs on amendment of the Constitution, both SALAM and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI have written articles on whether to amend the Constitution.

SALAM's article, "Untimely or Timely Discussion", while referring to the fact that the principle of Constitutional amendment does not mean disrespect to the Constitution, discussed two proposals: first, on government having the right to dissolve the Islamic Majles, and second, on changing the number of times an individual can become president. SALAM writes: Although the aim of these proposals is to strengthen the government, it will not yield a favorable result.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, under the title of "Preservation Rather Than Changes", writes:

Comments on constitutional amendments are fine as long as they do not jeopardize ideology, security, or national interests. By changing the [Constitution's] article on the right of an individual to become president for more than two terms, our leaders will be accused of favoring permanent sovereignty [life presidency]. This is not in the interest of revolution and the Islamic system. Therefore, it is necessary that opposition should be expressed to these types of proposals.

Loans Said To Require 'Specific Economic Analysis'

LD1511092694 *Tehran IRNA in English 0707 GMT 15 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 15 IRNA—A morning English-language daily here Tuesday [15 November] commented on ratification of a new note in Majlis (parliament) on receiving "new foreign loans to the tune of dlr. 10 billion" and noted "the amount, expenditure and repayment of such loans entail a specific economic analysis."

The IRAN NEWS referred in its editorial to a variety of problems affecting Iran's trade relations with different countries in the past and stressed that at the onset of the second plan, the recurrence of problems faced in the first plan loomed large.

"It is imperative, therefore, to take greater care in receiving optimally expending loans and scheduling their repayments. Before taking in dlr. 10 billion in loans, a necessary first step is a meticulous survey of the future of the domestic and international economy. The oil market needs special attention in this regard," noted the paper. It added that Iran should "carry out studies" on expending the loans so as to prevent the repetition of past problems. To this end, stressed the paper, a survey should be conducted on planning based on oil price in several scenarios.

It reiterated that preference for greater, more optimal and more economical utilization of Iranian resource to earn foreign currency was another noteworthy point in this connection.

The paper stressed that mere reception of foreign loans would not mean that a country's economy was weak or ailing and concluded that various countries have received foreign loans in the different stages of their economic growth and development. The important consideration, however, is that the amount, expenditure, and repayment of such loans entail a specific economic analysis.

Foreign Ministry's Performance Criticized

NC1611132094 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Nov 94 p 2*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Foreign Ministry—Why the Stagnation? Why the Silence?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We do not know what our Foreign Ministry is busy doing nowadays that makes it appear totally oblivious of the issues in the region. The Middle East is now in the throes of its most sensitive juncture. The United States attaches so much importance to the Middle East that, in addition to dispatching its experts and major and minor political pawns to the region, it is also engaged in making arrangements for a visit by President Clinton to the Arab countries and occupied Palestine. It is doing all it can to take advantage of this opportunity.

It is due to these particular U.S. efforts that the Zionist regime has gained a brilliant and golden opportunity that had never even crossed the imagination of the terrorist rulers of this dangerous regime.

The occurrences in that region are in fact tantamount to a declaration of war by international Zionism and the criminal United States against Islam. The Casablanca session, during which the Westerners participated in full force, is the most dangerous conclave with the objective of selling the prestige, honor, wealth, and independence of the Arab countries to the Zionists. All these conspiratorial moves are taking place around us in the heartland of the Islamic world, and the Foreign Ministry of the only revolutionary country that is the base of the international Islamic movement is a silent witness to these events!

During the time when Morocco and Tunisia were taking steps to establish overt political ties with Israel, an official of our Foreign Ministry visited these two countries and exchanged pleasantries with the officials. At the time when the Egyptian president was striving to activate a compromise accord between King Husayn and Israel, this same official visited Cairo and sought to provide Tehran's assurances to the Egyptian officials!

When the report of the lifting of the oil embargo against Israel was announced by the Arabs, our Foreign Ministry displayed a tepid and belated reaction a week later. When the U.S. President visited the region and the accord was signed between King Husayn and Israel, our Foreign Ministry did not show any reaction. Now that the Casablanca session with all its plots, the Zionist prime minister's remarks against the Muslim revolutionaries, 'Arafat's groveling, and the tyrannizing of the Arab officials are all going on before our very eyes, our Foreign Ministry's silence continues. The issue of the French Government's cruelty against female students wearing Islamic headgear is also one that probably does not come under the political category!

If we remain indifferent and do not comment on this silence and stagnation of the Foreign Ministry, the facts will not change. The truth is that the Foreign Ministry with such silence and stagnation has adopted a policy that is not befitting for a revolutionary nation that is the base of an international Islamic movement and that should assert its presence in all such moves related to the Islamic world. With the political independence and the

prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, we do not understand the meaning of this silence and stagnation on the part of the Foreign Ministry.

Waning 'Tolerance' of Student Marches Viewed

NC1611122994 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Nov 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "A Monopolistic Struggle Against the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the announcement that a march is being planned by students independent of the Islamic Propagation Organization, despite last year when the interior minister was vehemently opposed to it, one got the impression that, Praise be to God, the officials had relinquished their previous unpleasant stance. It seemed that in view of the extensive U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and the plot of compromise with Zionism throughout the region, they had assumed a broadminded posture so that the various sections of people could declare their hatred and loathing of the United States and its policies within the context of the Islamic Revolution. Thus they would observe the national day of struggle against the powers of world arrogance. The student faction, that played the main role in the historical activities of the second revolution [reference to the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by students], had the right to convene these ceremonies according to their own wishes. Even though these marches and gatherings did take place, unfortunately we witnessed some actions and remarks that indicated that the political tolerance of some quarters is waning, and after the experience of the elections for the fourth Majles term the narrowminded attitude is continuing its upward trend.

The failure to mention the marches by the Islamic students' association (the Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat) in the news media, the insistence that the march should be held on Wednesday and not Tuesday, and the letter by 137 esteemed Majles deputies asking the students not to separate their ranks from the nation and hold separate marches all indicate how much scope there is for wholesome political activity against the United States!

In truth, what is behind the allegations that all the student followers of the imam's line who were involved in the events of 4 November have been martyred? These were followed by attempts to affirm these allegations with remarks such as: "The occupation of the den of spies [reference to the U.S. Embassy in Tehran] was one of the many actions that the imam had recommended to combat the infidels and it is not proper for a group of students to consider this action exclusive to themselves."

The students certainly carried out this action on inspiration from the imam's exhortations. Did they not call themselves followers of the imam's line and instructions? So, on principle why is their presence in this

action being negated and an altercation is being stirred up regarding the extent of the imam's and the students' contribution?

One can only express regret at this thoughtless policy. At a time when the Americans are nesting in our midst we should be identifying them as our true enemies and all the pens and voices should be directed against them.

Apparently, one principle that has not crystallized properly in our society is that it is the social and natural right of people to have a dynamism in their thinking and their interpretations of issues. No individual should be accused of factionalism, discord etc., merely on the basis of his perceptions of various issues, nor should he be made a victim of a propaganda war just because he does not conform to the views of a particular faction.

Instead of raising slogans of a unilateral unit, one should think about "unity in diversity" and allow all groups and individuals to have the right to express their views and indulge in political activity according to their distinctive styles and inferences. Praise be to God, the field for a struggle with the enemies of Islam and the revolution is vast and can accommodate everybody! It is astonishing that even in the arena of struggle, there are some people who believe in monopolies and consider themselves so strong and self-sufficient that they cannot even tolerate the idea of anyone being stronger and view it as an unforgivable sin and crime!

Border Area Deemed Safe Despite 'Enemy' Radios
LD131114-094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 94

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent on 13 November following four-day visit to Kermanshah Province; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] One of the outstanding features and strong points of this visit was the stability and security prevailing in the region. In view of the sensitivity of the region and the fact that it is a border area, what is your eminence's view in this regard and what factors do you think play a role in this stability and security?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Well, in the first place, it is the people themselves, because the people are really supportive of the revolution and it is difficult, in such circumstances, for rebellious people to create insecurity. The Armed Forces, too, play a role there—in all fairness, since they were there during the war and are still strong. The circumstances of the region also dictate that they should remain there. The Ministry of Intelligence, the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the security forces, and the Basijis are all keeping an eye out and the security there is truly interesting.

We travelled from the very edge of the border to the depths of regions that are Kurdish, Turkish, and Ahl-i Haqq ["People of the Absolute God"—sect related to the Yazidis of Iraq]. We went everywhere and we were always among the people, in their midst, in the streets and squares. There is really a strong feeling of security. It is very interesting. A place that is subjected to the bombardment of enemy radios, Iraqi radio, the radios of rebellious Kurds, the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition group]—but where the people live so comfortably—the reason for this security is the fact that the region is attracting investment.

The governor general told us that the people there are so interested in investment that we cannot respond to even half their requests—in terms of creating the facilities and possibilities for them to invest. This extensive development comes about as a result of security.

[Correspondent] As my last question, how do you feel one day after the end of your trip and what advice do you have for the heroic people of Kermanshah Province?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] First of all, I have to express my gratitude for their kind and sincere support. [passage omitted] What I expect from all the officials, clergy, and personalities there is that they should act in a coordinated and close fashion, because that is in the interest of the province and its people.

We are prepared to extend more assistance to the province in order to undo the damage inflicted by the war. That is their right and we will do it. What we expect from them is that they should benefit from the government's assistance through coordination. They must prepare, especially, for the day when, God willing, the people of Iran and the people of Iraq wish to go back and forth. Great convoys of pilgrims will pass through the province. They must promote issues relating to tourism and so on. That is a task for the people themselves. Hostels, hotels—of course, they are constructing huge international hotels there and have prepared the airport. On our trip there, the airport was prepared for receiving international flights.

Also, because of the considerable archaeological sites that exist there on the routes of convoys of tourists and pilgrims—they must definitely prepare themselves for playing the host in the appropriate manner. [passage omitted]

President Inaugurates Gas Project in Kermanshah
LD1111121094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first phase of a project to connect Kermanshah Province in western Iran to the national gas network began operation this morning in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The president lit the gas torch in Kermanshah's Imam Khomeyni

Square and inaugurated the first phase of the project to transfer gas to Kermanshah via the pipeline at Kangan gas refinery.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that gas industries have played a vital role in social and economic development and in securing social welfare because they have brought about huge savings in energy costs.

Here is a report from our correspondent in Kermanshah:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Operations to supply Kermanshah with natural gas will take place in 17 phases involving a 1,100 km network of supply and distribution with 17 pressure control stations and 28 rust monitoring stations [as heard]. The project's capacity will allow 1,100 households to be connected to the natural gas network.

On the basis of projected plans until the end of the current year [21 March 1995], 4,000 households will have natural gas. Efforts to supply Kermanshah with natural gas started in 1993. The construction of 200 km of the network has been completed at a cost of more than 5 billion rials.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony in Kermanshah, the managing director of Iran's Natural Gas Company announced that with construction of more than 3,000 km of the gas supply network distributed in 200 towns, 3 million people are supplied with natural gas. He added: In the second development plan, 1,700,000 more households will be covered by the scheme. [end recording]

Objectives of Rabin's U.S. Visit Examined

NC1611082294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Nov 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Unit]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist regime's prime minister has left for the United States, where he will hold talks on political and economic issues with White House officials in Washington. Before leaving he announced that he would ask U.S. President Clinton to agree to the \$3 billion of extraordinary aid from Washington to Tel Aviv.

Political analysts say that Rabin's visit to the United States is worth assessing from two aspects: Bilateral relations and the compromise talks in the Middle East.

As for bilateral relations, you can categorically state that the financial, political, and military assistance to Israel by the United States is vitally important for Tel Aviv and this regime cannot subsist or stand on its own feet without such assistance. The United States provides over \$3 billion in the form of economic and military aid to the Zionist regime annually.

Even though the United States has considerably reduced its foreign assistance in the past few years, due to an economic recession and increase in its debts, assistance to the Zionist regime has been exempted in this regard. Most advanced armaments have been given to the Zionist regime, as it is the United States' consistent policy, a policy that has continued for 50 years, to maintain the Zionist regime's predominance in the region.

Support for the Zionist regime in international circles, especially in the Security Council, and efforts to prevent any kind of condemnation of this regime form another part of White House policy. The Zionist regime is also protected from all kinds of reprimands and punishment by the White House, despite its relentless aggression against the Muslim peoples of the region.

Despite these realities exposing the roots of the Middle East crisis and ruling out any doubts regarding the U.S. role in prolonging the crisis, Rabin's utterances on \$3 billion extra aid is another index that serves to highlight this. Following the Eastern bloc's collapse, nearly 1 million Jews from European countries emigrated to the occupied territories. The United States pledged that \$10 billion of bank credits would be placed at the disposal of the Zionist regime for this purpose so that the new refugees could be provided housing and employment.

The question arises: By keeping in mind this U.S. role in supporting the Zionist regime, how did the Arab countries accept Washington as a neutral mediator and why are they forging ahead with the trend of compromise under its aegis?

Editorial Says Talks With U.S. Ruled Out

NC1111211794 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Nov 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Kazem Anbarlu'i: "Negotiations and Talks With the United States—Never!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tomorrow the heroic Iranian nation throughout our Islamic homeland will take to the streets with cries of "Death to the United States" and "Death to Israel" and will express their fury and hatred for the powers of world arrogance and international despotism.

For 15 years the valiant, combatant people of Iran have defended their divine revolution with their victorious resistance, patience, and fortitude in circumstances in which the greatest powers of the world spearheaded by the criminal United States have spared not one moment in inflicting blows on it.

The great leader of the revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, stood firm with his clear and overt stance against the belligerence of the United States, and the officials of our system's foreign diplomacy led an honorable existence, which needed no relations with the archsatan.

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Now our heroic nation and officials have presented a successful and practical model of a system to astonished people everywhere and have delivered the message that you can exist with pride and honor without relations with the United States. [passage omitted]

All our successes are due to the revolution never being prepared to pay the slightest heed to the pleas of the corrupt leaders of the White House calling for talks or relations. The Islamic revolution today is like a steel barricade before U.S. plots. This is the sign of our strength and firmness.

Yesterday, at a congress at Tehran university on "The Islamic revolution against the powers of world arrogance," one of the speakers said: "The issue of talks with the United States solves no problems. What would really solve problems is boosting the country's capability in various spheres so that the United States officially recognizes the strength of our existence. Only after this can there be talk of negotiations."

First, we do not need the United States to officially recognize us, as the request for relations or negotiations comes from the Americans and therefore means that they have accorded official recognition.

Second, who said we are a weak nation? The portraits of the great leader of our revolution, Imam Khomeyni, adorn the houses of people in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Kashmir, Algeria, Sudan, India, the Central Asian countries, and so on. This is a sign of their solidarity with the courageous Iranian people. [passage omitted]

Third, we are not prepared to enter into talks with the United States now, when we are at the height of our strength. This is because we do not need relations and we believe that by not entering into such talks and negotiations, we have dealt a firm and furious blow to the aggressive policies of the United States in the region and in the world. Such talks can only serve to weaken this stance and are therefore detrimental to us.

Fourth, our nation will permit no one to open the chapter of talks and negotiations with the United States just because the power of our country has been enhanced. [passage omitted]

The heroic Iranian nation will prove tomorrow that it steadfastly adheres to its principled stance—eternal wrath against the criminal United States until, in the words of Imam Khomeyni, it behaves in a human manner and relinquishes its arrogant behavior.

In view of the diabolical potential with which the CIA, Pentagon, and the White House are replete, the Americans can never act in a sane or humane manner. This is why tomorrow's cries of "Death to the United States" and Death to Israel" will resound throughout our Islamic homeland.

U.S-Israeli Policy in Gulf Criticized

NC1511124894 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Nov 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Creeping Plan for U.S. and Israeli Domination Over the Destinies of the Arabs"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Most of the incidents that take place around us in the world are part of the connections of a major conspiracy. Only an intensive hair-splitting assessment of these incidents could reveal the present and future objectives of the formulators of this conspiracy.

Today, the Arab world has gone down on its knees before Israel; the oil and the markets of the Arabs have been laid before the Zionists; the Arabs and Israel are contemplating joint cooperation in the economic field, in oil and even in security matters; the United States is considering permanent bases in this region; spewing venom against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran have become the main index of domestic and foreign policies of nearly all the reactionary, lackey regimes in the region. If this is all true, then what will the future hold for the region? What kind of analysis could further a correct comprehension of these developments? Is there a path of return for the nations of the region?

All facts and figures indicate that if this situation continues in the region, it will not be long before Israel gains dominance over the region which will not be merely military but economic and security matters as well. In such an event, the oil and imports of the Arabs, even the actions and governments of the Arab regimes will be at the disposal of the Zionists. [passage omitted]

Imagine for a moment that the staging of joint maneuvers of the U.S. and Kuwaiti forces in the south of Iraq and the bombing of Iraqi territory by the Kuwaiti and American bombers is carried out, which Arab country will stand to benefit? Will Kuwait's security become more ensured? Will the security and stability of the region be enhanced? Or will the seeds of discord, war, and battle be scattered once again over Iraqi soil so that they may be reaped again tomorrow by the United States and Israel? The powers of world arrogance have not contented themselves with the sale of weapons to the Arabs, the pillage of their oil, and the usurpation of their markets. Instead they are seeking to make the Arabs shed one another's blood so that the Zionists are projected as the agents of law, security, and stability in the region. The United States and Israel do not give much thought to 'Arafat and Mubarak today. They have given a little piece of land to keep 'Arafat busy and have delegated to him the responsibility of crushing the Palestinians. In any case, regardless of where the blood is shed, Israel stands to gain. This is because 'Arafat and his associates have been reduced to the level of mercenaries who have to shed the blood of their brothers in order to survive

and they have to extend their hands before the Zionist magnates and explain: "We are beggars and we do not have oil or dollars."

Israel no longer needs the brokering of Mubarak and the Cairo regime. This is because they played the role of catalyst [preceding word in English] in order to set the trend in motion and subsequently the compromise seems to be forging ahead without any need of the catalyst, that is, the Cairo regime. [passage omitted]

Those who deliberately or inadvertently forget the treachery of the Egyptian regime and who justify interaction with the Camp David Cairo regime under whatever pretext or name, are knowingly or unwittingly supplying grist to the Israeli mill. It is for us and the Muslim nations to rise up with fury and indignation against Israel and the United States to warn those who have underestimated the dangers from Israel and the United States for the region and the Islamic world, and to defend the prestige, the aspirations, principles, and honor of the revolution, Islam, and the country.

Commentary on U.S. 'Two-Faced Policy' on MKO
NC1211175494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Nov 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "The Two Faces of Washington With Regard to the Monafeqin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its new two-sided approach, the White House has described the Monafeqin [term meaning hypocrites, used for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] group it has nurtured as "terrorists" and has admitted that this organization is undemocratic and does not have a base among the people.

Regardless of the fact that the legitimacy of the Iranian nation has constantly been obvious to the various governments of the world, such remarks by the diplomatic apparatus of an arrogant superpower is a manifestation of it. However, the true remarks by the U.S. State Department should not make us unaware of their political implications, which are examples of the latest two-faced political stance of the White House. In fact, those who denounce Machiavelli are the primary implementers of his thinking in the world of politics.

In addition to this fact, one should not relax one's vigilance regarding the overt and covert aspects of the White House's latest decisions. Another important issue is that this decision has been adopted on the basis of certain political expediencies geared to U.S. vital interests. When this group carried out its most merciless and violent terrorist operations against the Iranian nation, its strategic planning and financial backing was rooted in the U.S. political organizations, as well as the fearful CIA, and this tactical link still continues.

However, now a 41-page report has been presented by the U.S. State Department without any reference to the former crimes of this group and the above decision is

justified by attributing it to this group's collaboration with Saddam in Iraq. In fact, the Monafeqin have constantly been considered Saddam's soldiers, who in the course of the eight years of the holy defense [Iran-Iraq war] and in its aftermath did not spare any effort to commit treachery against the Iranian nation. Even now they are striving to assist Saddam as his soldiers in consolidating his structure of domination and repression. It is as though this second phase of their operations has aroused the ire of the White House.

In view of the fact that Washington has constantly nurtured this group as its progeny against Iran and has used it as a ploy to exert pressure, the strategic and espionage direction of the Monafeqin as well as financial support for it by the United States will continue in the future. Some political circles believe that the United States will continue to use this group as pressure against Iran regarding the Arab-Israel compromise process, before which Iran is considered the main impediment.

Another aspect of this issue is that once again the fact that the notorious Monafeqin group is a playground—at times as a ploy to boost Washington's influence and at times in the form of mercenary soldiers for the preservation of the domination of the Baghdad regime—will become clear to all.

Velayati Sends Letter to UN on Serb Attacks

LD1611085994 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 16 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 16, IRNA—The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a letter to the U.N. secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali Tuesday [15 November] expressed Iran's deep concern over the military actions by the Bosnian and Croatian Serbs in Bihac.

The letter pointed out that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina had been deteriorated by Serbian attacks supported by heavy shelling of the Croatian Serbs, against the Bosnian Government troops.

"During the past few weeks, renewed attacks by Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia against the western parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular the brutal attacks in the Bihac area, has resulted in the death and injury of many civilians, including women, children and elderly," it noted.

The letter stressed that as a result of military actions by Serbs, the city of Bihac, which had been declared as a safe area by relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, was seriously threatened and on the verge of being invaded.

"We are of the view that if the Serbs are allowed to continue their campaign of aggression and genocide, we will witness more ethnic cleansing of Muslims in that area," the letter read.

No doubt, the letter stressed, the decision to ease the international embargo against Serbia and Montenegro as well as double-standards in the decisions of the Security Council and continuation of arms embargo against the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina have all encouraged the continued assaults and the campaign of genocide against the defenseless Bosnian people who will soon face the third hard and annoying winter.

The letter concluded by saying that the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believed that the international community, the U.N. in particular, in accordance with its duties and responsibilities enshrined in the charter, should shoulder the responsibility to take immediate practical action in defending the people of Bosnia and the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of that republic.

Contradictions in Kuwaiti Policy Discussed

NC1511134794 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Nov 94 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Confusion in Kuwait Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

What is happening in Kuwait? Who is at the helm of the vessel of the Kuwaiti Government? Who makes the decisions and who has the final word? These are pertinent questions if viewed in the context of the contradictory and inconsistent political propaganda in Kuwait. Naturally we should ponder answers to each of these questions.

It appears that every Kuwaiti official blurts out whatever comes to mind without any previous coordination or thought. Besides, it appears that most of these utterances can be attributed to the fallout from the extravagance of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. This is because ever since his arrival in this shaykhdom, the neophyte U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker has—with his extravagance, his threats and by expressing his own views—motivated some Kuwaiti officials to make contradictory remarks and he continues to do so.

It is therefore not very clear what exactly the view of Kuwait on the issues of the region and relations with its neighbors is. Kuwaiti Propaganda Minister Sa'ud al-Sabah tried to justify the past erroneous actions of Kuwait in his interview with the newspaper AL-MADINAH recently and even gave some guidance on combating Islamic Iran. He said: Kuwait helped Iraq in the war against Iran as it considered Iran a source of danger to the region. However, Kuwait later became the victim of the one it had helped against Iran. Today the "dual containment of Iran and Iraq" is necessary to keep Iraq in check and to combat the possible expansionist objectives of Iran. Since Tehran has a plan to gain access to nuclear weapons, the dual containment policy is to the benefit of the region and should be activated. He added: The differences between Iran and the United Arab

Emirates [UAE] should be referred to the International Court of Justice and The Hague as suggested by the UAE.

In justification of Kuwait being a protectorate under the U.S. banner, Sa'ud al-Sabah said: The foreign forces came to defend us and as long as the threats from Iran and Iraq continue in full force these forces will remain deployed here.

It seems as if the Kuwaiti propaganda minister has forgotten that precisely the same stance had been proclaimed verbatim by the amateur U.S. ambassador and naturally were parroted by Sa'ud al-Sabah without even knowing what he was saying. It is still not very clear whether the Kuwaiti propaganda minister is a member of the coterie which is paid by the U.S. Embassy to utter such remarks or belongs to the group which repeats Washington's stance with threats, intimidation, and instructions.

In any case, regardless of which group he is a member of, it is most degrading for a propaganda minister to recite the words of others and not to have anything original to say himself. In addition, governments usually select their propaganda ministers from among discerning and intelligent individuals so that if they cannot solve any problems, at least they should not create new ones. Apparently, this is not the case in Kuwait.

It goes without saying that in Kuwait there are officials who are intelligent and meticulous who ponder over the interests of Kuwait and the future of the region. Naturally, they endeavor to compensate for the past by means of goodwill and in their official assertions, they are constantly seeking to stress the amelioration and proliferation of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. By apologizing for Kuwait's actions in the past, they openly call on the Iranian people and government to forget the past.

It is quite obvious that a vast spectrum of Kuwaiti officials insists that the atmosphere of understanding should be created in relations with Islamic Iran and they are constantly seeking to improve relations between the two countries. However, it appears they are also not able to rein in the U.S. mercenaries and it is not very clear to us why individuals such as the propaganda minister of this shaykhdom are permitted to recite the remarks of the U.S. ambassador and to strain relations with us.

Naturally Washington and its surrogates are seeking to mar the cordial relations among regional countries. What is a source of amazement is how such an effort succeeds in Kuwait and the words dictated by the U.S. ambassador are repeated verbatim by the propaganda minister of this shaykhdom.

Regardless of whoever is behind these remarks and stances, it is certainly not to Kuwait's advantage that it should adopt a thoughtless, contradictory, and capricious policy and should change its stances every minute.

Such a policy can only benefit foreigners and is naturally to the detriment of Kuwait and the region.

POW Commission Chief on Prisoners Held by Iraq

*LD1511154894 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT
15 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—Head of the commission in charge of the prisoners of war (POWs), Brigadier General Abdollah Najafi said here Tuesday that according to evidences Iran still has 31,000 prisoners of war or missing in action in Iraq.

In a meeting with the family members of the prisoners of war and those missing in action during eight years of the

Iraqi imposed war 1980-1988, Najafi said, "We will do our utmost to secure release of the Iranian prisoners of war from Iraq."

Referring to the documents on Iranian POWs in Iraq, he said that they include 500 hours of videotapes, 12,000 hours of tapes on which the prisoners' interviews were recorded and broadcast by the Iraqi radio or t.v. immediately after being captured by the Iraqi Army.

He expressed Iran's readiness to consider any proposal or plan by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Iraqi officials for a just solution to the problem of Iranian POWs in Iraq.

He said that Iraq had given a false number for Iranian POWs living in that country. For instance in 1988 it claimed that there were 18,000 Iranian POWs in Iraq, whereas, it freed 39,000 Iranian POWs during March 1990-March 1991.

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